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# The dark matter of gravitational lensing

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## **Abstract.**

We review progress in understanding dark matter by astrophysics, and particularly via the effect of gravitational lensing. Evidence from many different directions now all imply that five sixths of the material content of the universe is in this mysterious form, separate from and beyond the ordinary “baryonic” particles in the standard model of particle physics. Dark matter appears not to interact via the electromagnetic force, and therefore neither emits nor reflects light. However, it definitely does interact via gravity, and has played the most important role in shaping the Universe on large scales. The most successful technique with which to investigate it has so far been the effect of gravitational lensing. The curvature of space-time near any gravitating mass (including dark matter) deflects passing rays of light – observably shifting, distorting and magnifying the images of background galaxies. Measurements of such effects currently provide constraints on the mean density of dark matter, and its density relative to baryonic matter; the size and mass of individual dark matter particles; and its cross section under various fundamental forces.

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## 1. Introduction

Astrophysics now operates under the astonishing hypothesis that the Universe we see is but the tip of an iceberg. It has taken a wealth of evidence from many independent observations to confirm that, while the “standard model” of particle physics may successfully describe quarks, leptons and bosons, it misses the most common form of matter. The first evidence for this provocative stance came from the unexpectedly high velocities of galaxies in the Coma cluster [1, 2] and Virgo cluster [3]. The clusters appear to be gravitationally bound, but all the luminous material inside them does not add up to sufficient mass to retain the fast-moving galaxies. In individual galaxies too, stars orbit too fast to be held by the luminous material of Andromeda [4, 5, 6], NGC3115 [7] and other spiral galaxies [8, 9]. Luminous material in these galaxies is concentrated in the central regions, so the angular rotation of stars ought to slow at large radii, but stars in the outskirts are seen to rotate at the same rate as those near the centre. Given the high velocities of their constituents, both galaxies and clusters of galaxies ought to pull themselves apart. Preserving these self-destructive systems requires gravitational glue in the form of invisible “dark matter”.

The modern “concordance” cosmological model also relies upon the gravitational influence of (cold) dark matter to glue together the entire Universe. Slowing the expansion after the Big Bang required much more gravity than that provided by the baryons, which alone would have allowed the contents of the Universe to be spread unhabitably thin [10]. However, if additional dark matter were forged during the same primordial fireball, it must have quickly stopped interacting with other particles through the electroweak force, in order to preserve the uniformity of photons in the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, whose temperature fluctuations reach only one part in  $10^5$  of the mean [11]. Indeed, once dark matter decoupled from standard model particles, it began collapsing under its own gravity into dense concentrations of mass. These provided the initial scaffolding for structure formation. Once ordinary matter had cooled further, and also decoupled from the hot photons, it could fall into the scaffolding and be built into galaxies [12, 13, 14, 15]. Without dark matter’s headstart, there would have been insufficient time to build the complex structures we see (and live in) today. The latest measurements of the CMB and Large-Scale Structure [16, 17] indicate that the Universe contains approximately one hydrogen atom per cubic metre, but five times that in the form of dark matter.

On the back of this evidence, determining the nature of ubiquitous dark matter has become an outstanding problem of modern physics. Yet its low rate of interaction with the rest of the Universe makes it difficult to detect. Since dark matter does not generally emit, reflect or absorb light of any wavelength, traditional astrophysics is rendered blind. No particle colliders have yet achieved sufficient energy to create a single dark matter particle and, even if they can identify a dark matter candidate, *astronomical observations will still be required to demonstrate that the candidate particle is present in sufficient quantities throughout the Universe to be the dark matter.* Direct detection experiments

in quiet, underground mines have yet to locate a convincing signal – and explaining this absence also requires astrophysical explanations, such as the patchiness of dark matter debris from consumed satellite galaxies [18, 19]. Astronomy will therefore remain vital in resolving the outstanding problem that it initiated.

As with the first detections, the best way to study dark matter is via its gravitational influence on more easily visible particles. The most direct method for this is “gravitational lensing”, the deflection of photons as they pass through the warped space-time of a gravitational field [20]. Light rays from distant sources are not “straight” (in a Euclidean frame) if they pass near massive objects, such as stars, clusters of galaxies or dark matter, along our line of sight. In practice, the effect is similar to optical refraction, although it arises from very different physics. The effect was first observed in 1919, during a solar eclipse in front of the Hyades star cluster, whose stars appeared to move as they passed behind the mass of the sun [21]. This observation provided the first experimental verification of general relativity. Although neither Einstein nor the observers saw any further uses for the effect [22], Zwicky suggested that the ultimate measurement of cluster masses would come from lensing [2], and it has indeed become the most successful probe of the dark sector.

Many lines of research currently exploit the effect of gravitational lensing. It is a rapidly growing field, but the first threads of consensus are beginning to emerge in answer to the top-level questions. As we shall discuss in this review, the technique has provided vital contributions to the following deductions:

- The Universe contains about five times more dark matter than baryonic matter
- Dark matter interacts approximately normally via gravity
- Dark matter has a very small electroweak and self-interaction cross section
- Dark matter is not in the form of dense, planet-sized bodies
- Dark matter is dynamically cold.

We introduce the various observational flavours of gravitational lensing in §2. We then describe lensing measurements that have shed light upon the amount of dark matter in §3, its organisation in §4, and its properties in §5. We try to touch upon all of the areas of gravitational lensing that have contributed to current knowledge of dark matter, but cannot comprehensively discuss observations from all fields in a single review. We discuss future prospects and challenges for the field in §6, and conclude in §7. Note that measurements of cosmological distances all depend upon the overall rate of expansion of the Universe, parameterised as Hubble’s constant  $H$ . Throughout this review, we assume a background cosmological model in which this value at the present day is  $h = H_0/^{10} = 70$  km/s/Mpc. Since this is only known to  $\sim 5\%$  accuracy [23], uncertainty in the geometry of gravitational lens systems propagates implicitly into the same uncertainty in all inferred (absolute) lens masses.

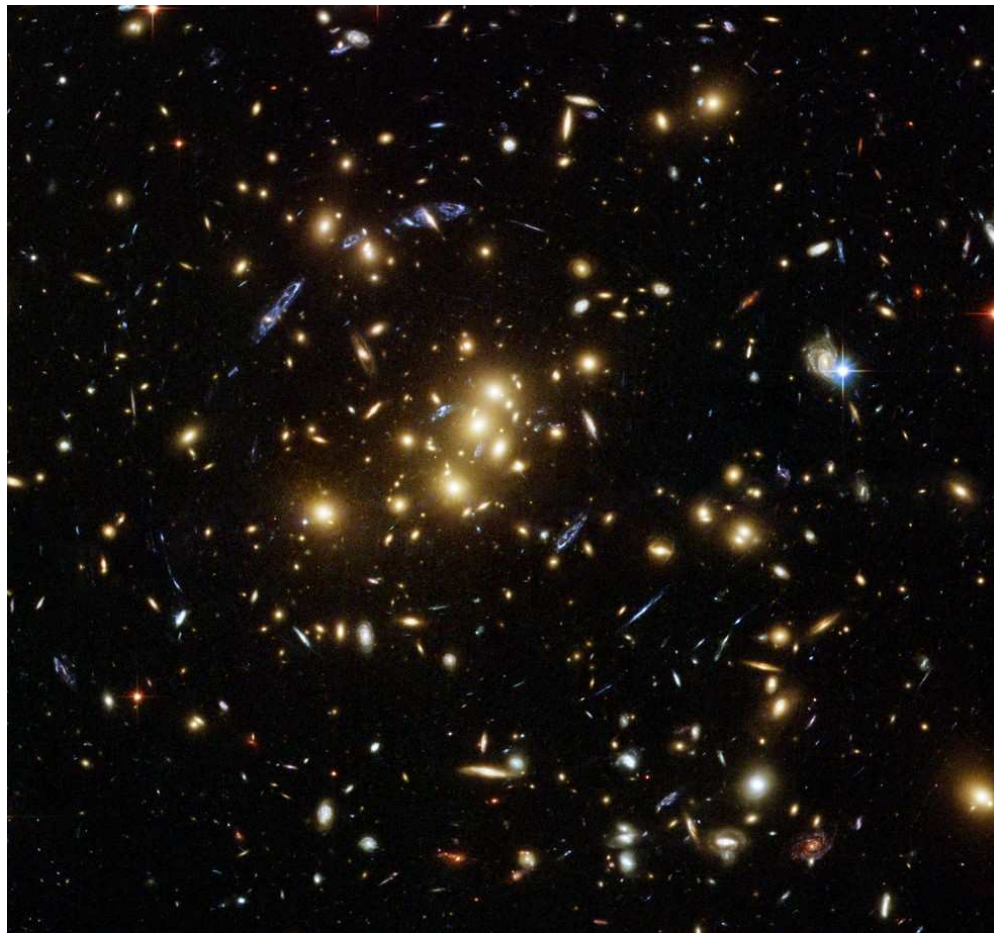
## 2. Observational flavours of Gravitational Lensing

### 2.1. Strong lensing

Gravitational lensing is most easily observable around a dense concentration of mass like the core of a galaxy or cluster of galaxies. In the “strong lensing” regime, nearby space-time is so warped that light can travel along multiple paths around the lens, and still be deflected back towards the observer [24]. If a distant source is directly behind a circular lens, the light can travel around any side of it, and appears as an “Einstein ring”. The Einstein radius or size of this ring is proportional to the square root of the projected mass inside it. If the background source is slightly offset, or the lens has a complex shape, the source can still appear in multiple locations, viewed from very slightly different angles. Depending on the focussing of the light path, each of these multiple images can be made brighter (magnified) or fainter (demagnified), and the magnification is greatest close to the “critical curve” (the asymmetric equivalent of an Einstein ring) [25]. Since light from opposite ends of an extended source (e.g. a galaxy) is typically deflected by different amounts, the source appears distorted. Distant galaxies intrinsically no different from any others appear as tangential arcs around the lens or, if the lens mass is very concentrated, a line radiating away from it [26]. Such “radial arcs” are generally difficult to see because they are usually less magnified and appear inside the Einstein radius, behind any light emitted by the lens object itself. An example of strong gravitational lensing around a massive galaxy cluster is shown in figure 1.

The first strong gravitational lens was discovered with the Jodrell Bank MkIA radio telescope in 1979 [27]. Two quasars were found 6 arcseconds apart, with identical redshifts  $z = 1.41$  and detailed absorption spectra. A foreground  $z = 0.355$  galaxy is now known between them. Subsequent observational progress has then driven primarily by technological advance. Photographic plates even on large telescopes and scanned by computers gather light too inefficiently to capture optical images of the distant (therefore faint) and thin lensed arcs. Digital CCD cameras have far higher efficiency, and the first image of a strongly lensed arc was obtained with the Canada-France Hawaii telescope in galaxy cluster Abell 370 [28, 29], and confirmed to be a single object at redshift  $z = 0.72$  by optical spectroscopy [30]. Several more such giant arcs were quickly identified in other galaxy clusters [31], soon the first sample of strong lensing clusters was built [32] and allowed for statistical study of giant arcs [33].

The launch of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) then revolutionised the field once again. Its unrivalled imaging resolution helped distinguish a large number of arcs, arclets and multiple images in many clusters. The first study using the Wide Field Planetary Camera (WFPC2) identified seven strongly lensed objects behind the cluster Abell 2218 [34], significantly more than had been found by using ground-based telescopes. The Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) provided a further step forward, with 20-30 strongly lensed objects found in several of the most massive clusters [35] and over 100 multiple images around Abell 1689 [36]. The positions and shapes of the images can be used to reconstruct the distribution of mass in the lens. The magnification effect



**Figure 1.** Strong gravitational lensing around galaxy cluster CL0024+17, demonstrating at least three layers projected onto a single 2D image. The + shaped objects are nearby stars in our own galaxy (the + created by optical effects in the telescope). The yellow, elliptical galaxies are members of the cluster, all at a similar redshift and gravitationally bound. Also amongst this group of galaxies is a halo of invisible dark matter. The elongated blue objects are much more distant galaxies, physically unassociated with, and lying behind, the cluster. Gravitational lensing has distorted their apparent images into a series of tangential arcs. Figure credit: NASA/ESA/M.J. Jee (John Hopkins University).

boosts the observed fluxes of background objects, so that a strong lensing cluster can also be used as a *gravitational telescope* to see – and even resolve – fainter or more distant objects than otherwise possible [37].

The detection of strong-lensing events on galaxy scales also enabled constraints on cosmological parameters using large statistical samples. Throughout the 1990s, the Cosmic Lens All-Sky Survey (CLASS, [38]) searched for gravitationally lensed compact radio sources using imaging from the Very Large Array (VLA). Out of  $\sim 16,500$  radio sources, they found 22 lens systems. The statistical properties of these lensed systems constrained cosmological parameters [39] and measurements of their time delays constrained Hubble’s constant [40]. More recently, systematic homogeneous surveys

such as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) have provided even larger samples of strong-lensing galaxies. The SDSS Quasar Lens Search (SQLS, [41]) spectroscopically found 53 lensing galaxies and tightened constraints on cosmological parameters [42] by ingeniously looking for the signature of two objects at different redshifts. Finally, the Sloan Lens ACS (SLACS, [43]) Survey combined the massive data volume of SDSS with the high-resolution imaging capability of ACS to identify and then follow up 131 galaxy-galaxy lensing systems [172], measuring the average dark matter fraction and dark matter density profiles within galaxies [74].

## 2.2. Microlensing

Most distant astronomical observations are static on the scale of a human lifetime but, as in the case of the 1919 eclipse, an exception is provided by any relative motion between a source and a gravitational lens. The line of sight to a star along which a foreground mass would induce gravitational lensing represents a tiny volume of space. Panoramic imaging cameras now make it possible to monitor the lines of sight to many millions of stars, and any object traversing any of those small volumes can temporarily brighten it for days or weeks. Indeed, “pixel lensing” of even unresolved stars can still detect the statistical passage of a foreground lens in front of one of the many stars contributing to the light in any pixel [46, 47]. The main observational concern is to avoid false-positive detections due to intrinsic variability in the luminosity of certain types of star. The two most exciting results microlensing studies are that dark matter in the Milky Way is not predominantly in the form of freefloating, planet-sized lumps of dull rock, which would occasionally brighten stars in the Galactic centre, but that planet-sized lumps of rock do exist around other stars, and give rise to secondary brightness peaks shortly before or after their host star itself acts as a gravitational lens.

The term “gravitational microlensing” was coined by Refsdal [44, 45], from the characteristic  $\sim 1$  microarcsecond size of a star’s Einstein radius. Only physically small sources will be significantly affected by microlensing; extended background sources like galaxies are effectively immune because only a tiny fraction of their light is strongly magnified, with the rest propagating unaffected. More massive lenses, with milliarcsecond Einstein radii, produce “gravitational millilensing” that affects slightly larger background sources on a timescale of months (and the statistical long tail is strong lensing around massive clusters, with arcsecond Einstein radii). This distinction has been most useful when looking at the lensed images of Active Galactic Nuclei (a galaxy’s central, supermassive black hole and surrounding accretion disc), because these really do have different physical sizes when viewed at different wavelengths. As matter gradually falls into the black hole, it emits a warm glow of infra-red light from the large and outer narrow-line region, then optical light from the smaller broad-line region and finally ultra-violet light from the accretion disc itself. The behaviour of the source can be modelled from long wavelength observations, which are relatively unaffected by gravitational lensing, then the lens object and even its substructure probed at

progressively shorter wavelengths.

### 2.3. Weak lensing

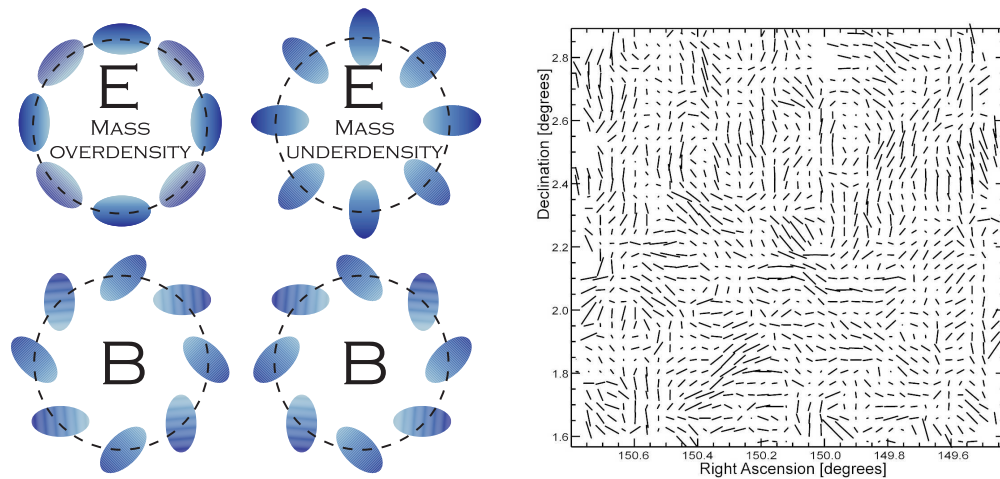
Most lines of sight through the Universe do not pass near a strong gravitational lens. Far from the core of a galaxy or cluster of galaxies, the light deflection is very slight. In this “weak lensing” regime, the distortion of resolved sources can be approximated to first order as a locally linear transformation of the sky, represented as a  $2 \times 2$  matrix that includes magnification, shear and (potentially, but not usually in practice) rotation [48, 49, 50, 51, 52]. The theory was developed during the 1990s [53, 54], including some practical methods to accurately measure galaxy positions and shapes in the new pixellated CCD images [55]. Either the magnification [56] or the shear distortion can be measured, but the shear tends to have higher signal to noise, because competing effects of magnification (the brightening of faint galaxies, but the dilution of the surveyed volume in a fixed angle on the sky) act against each other and partially cancel [57].

The shear distortion changes the shapes of distant galaxies, adjusting their major-to-minor axis ratio by  $\sim 2\%$ . This cannot be seen in an individual object, since it is far smaller than the range of intrinsic shape variation in galaxies, which are already elliptical, have spiral arms and knots of star formation, etc. However, galaxies along adjacent lines of sight are coherently sheared by a similar amount, while their intrinsic shapes are (to first order) uncorrelated. In the absence of lensing, if there is no preferred direction in the Universe, galaxy shapes must average out as circular. Once sheared, the average shape of adjacent galaxies is an ellipse, from which the shear signal can be measured statistically. The intrinsic shapes of galaxies are noise in this measurement (averaging over  $\sim 100$  galaxies is required to obtain a signal to noise of unity in shear). The spatial resolution of this measurement is determined by the density on the sky of galaxies whose shapes are resolved: typically a few square arcminutes from the ground, or one square arcminute from space.

The observable shear field is proportional to a second derivative of the gravitational potential projected along a line of sight. Via a convolution, this can be converted into a map of the projected mass distribution at the same resolution. The mass is just a different second derivative of the gravitational potential and is responsible for the circular “*E*-mode” patterns shown in figure 2 and reminiscent of the tangential strong lensing arcs around clusters. Conveniently, a second scalar quantity can be extracted from the shear field. The curl-like “*B*-mode” signal is not produced by the gravitational field of a single mass, and only in very low amounts by a complex distribution of mass [58]. However, many potential systematics produce *E* and *B*-modes equally, so checking that the *B*-mode is consistent with zero in a final analysis provides a useful test that an analysis has successfully removed any residual instrumental systematics.

By the late 1990s, weak gravitational lensing had been detected around the most massive clusters, and an optimistic outlook was presented in an influential review in 1997 [48]. The optimism was well founded, for weak lensing really burst onto the



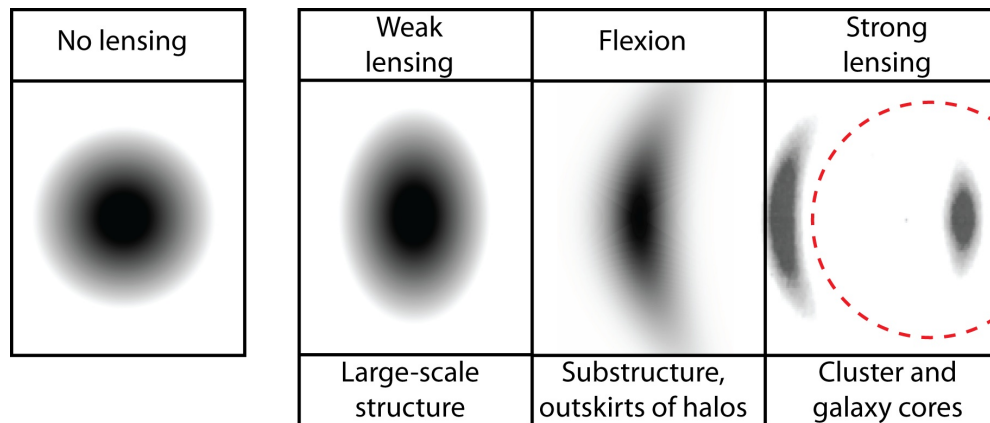


**Figure 2.** The statistical signals sought by measurements of weak gravitational lensing are slight but coherent distortions in the shapes of distant galaxies. (*Left*): A tangential, circular pattern of background galaxies is produced around a foreground mass overdensity, reminiscent of the tangential arcs of strong lensing seen in figure 1. On much larger scales, an opposite, radial pattern is produced by foreground voids. Physical gravitational lensing produces only these “*E*-mode” patterns. However, there is another degree of freedom in a shear (vector-like) field, and spurious artefacts can typically mimic both. Measurements of “*B*-mode” patterns therefore provide a free test for residual systematic defects. (*Right*): The observed ellipticities of half a million distant galaxies within the 2 square degree Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey [148]. Each tick mark represents the mean ellipticity of several hundred galaxies. A dot represents a circular mean galaxy; lines represent elliptical mean galaxies, with the length of the line proportional to the ellipticity, and in the direction of the major axis. The longest lines represent an ellipticity of about 0.06. Several coherent circular *E*-mode patterns are evident in this figure, e.g. (149.9, 2.5). Radial *E*-mode patterns are also present on larger scales, but the density in voids cannot be negative, so the contrast is lower and the signal much less apparent to the eye. The *B*-mode signal is consistent with zero.

cosmological scene during a single month in 2000 when the first large-format CCDs allowed four groups to independently detect weak lensing in random patches of the sky [59, 60, 61, 62], a probe of the true average distribution of dark matter. In particular, it was the consistency between the four independent measurements that assuaged doubts from an initially skeptical astronomical community and laid the foundations for larger, dedicated surveys from telescopes both on the ground and in space. Weak lensing has rapidly become a standard cosmological tool.

#### 2.4. Flexion

Bridging the gap between strong and weak lensing is the second-order effect known as flexion. If the projected mass distribution of a lens has a spatial gradient, steep enough to change the induced shear from one side of a source galaxy to the other, that galaxy begins to curve as shown in figure 3. This is the next term in a lensing expansion



**Figure 3.** The various regimes of gravitational lensing image distortion. Along typical lines of sight through the Universe, an intrinsically circular source is distorted into an ellipse by weak lensing *shear*. The resulting axis ratio is typically only  $\sim 2\%$  and has been exaggerated in this figure for illustration. Nearer concentrations of mass, the distortion begins to introduce *flexion* curvature. Along lines of sight passing near the most massive galaxies of clusters of galaxies, and through the most curved space-time, strong gravitational lensing produces multiple imaging and giant arcs.

that leads towards the formation of an arc, as in strong lensing. The amplitude of the flexion signal is lower than the shear signal, but so is the intrinsic curvature of typical galaxy shapes. Statistical techniques similar to those used in weak lensing can therefore be applied. Flexion measurements have proven most useful to fill in a gap in the reconstructed mass around galaxy clusters where the light deflection is too small for strong lensing, but the area (and hence the number of lensed sources) is too low for a significant weak lensing analysis.

The initial attempts to mathematically describe the flexion distortion were forbidding [63, 64, 65]. More recent descriptions adapt the complex notation from weak lensing shear into an elegant formalism requiring just one extra derivative of the gravitational potential [66, 67]. Flexion has an equivalent of the  $E$ - and  $B$ -mode decomposition [68], and one extra degree of freedom in the second-order equations produces an additional distortion that is not produced by gravitational lensing [69]. Measurements of all these extra patterns may provide useful crosschecks for residual image processing systematics.

### 3. Quantity of Dark Matter

#### 3.1. Amount of dark matter in individual galaxies

Individual galaxies are built of baryonic material encased inside a much larger halo of dark matter. Gravitational lensing can probe this halo at outer radii far beyond any visible tracers of mass. Indeed, there is now better agreement about the profile of the dark matter halo than the distribution of the central baryons!

The weak lensing signal in SDSS survey imaging is very noisy, but stacking the signal around a third of a million galaxies reveals a typical halo of total (weak lensing) mass  $1.4 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$  around galaxies with a stellar mass of  $6 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  (as determined from a comparison of the spectrum of emitted light against theoretical models), independently of their visual morphology [70]. Across all galaxies, these stars would account for  $\sim 16\%$  of the expected baryons in the Universe. Within rather uncertain errors, this is consistent with independent radio observations of atomic gas that indicate that while only  $\sim 10\%$  of baryons end up in galaxies, almost all of these form stars [71].

To more directly measure the mass of the central baryons, the Hubble Space Telescope SLACS survey of elliptical galaxies probes the distribution of total mass throughout galaxies by combining weak lensing with strong lensing and parameterizing the density of dark matter. Such observations necessarily require more massive galaxies, and find haloes of  $1.2 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$  around ellipticals with stellar mass  $2.6 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  [74]. Crucially, baryons dominate the core by an order of magnitude excess over dark matter, comprise  $27 \pm 4\%$  of the mass in the central  $\sim 5$  kpc, and this fraction falls as expected to recover the constant value consistent with cosmological measurements in the outskirts.

On the contrary, the Red-Sequence Cluster survey finds that elliptical galaxies live inside  $\sim 2\times$  more massive dark matter haloes than spiral galaxies with the same stellar mass [72]. The ratio of total baryons to dark matter in bound systems is probably constant so, if these variations are real, they are most likely due to variations in the efficiencies of star formation between morphological types of galaxies. Other studies do find this to vary by the required factor of  $\sim 2$  [73] – although this involves several assumptions about the loss of baryons from galaxies and the relative production of bright stars versus faint stars.

As shown in figure 4, the conversion of stars into baryons is most efficient today in galaxies of a characteristic mass of  $10^{11} - 10^{12} M_{\odot}$  [75, 76, 77]. This scale has generally grown over cosmic history, although evidence is also emerging for “cosmic downsizing”, by which activity may be shifting back to less massive structures [78, 79]. Either side of this scale, star formation is quenched by astrophysical effects, and the amount of total mass needed to support a given luminosity increases [80, 81, 82, 83]. Even slightly smaller  $\lesssim 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  dark matter haloes form very few stars, because their shallow gravitational potential can not gather a sufficient density of baryons that are being continually re-heated by a background of photoionising radiation from distant stars and quasars [84, 85], or kept from being stirred and expelled by winds and supernova explosions in any first stars [75]. The situation is less clear in more massive haloes, although outflows from central supermassive black holes certainly contribute to an inability of baryons to cool and condense into sufficiently dense regions to then collapse into stars [86].

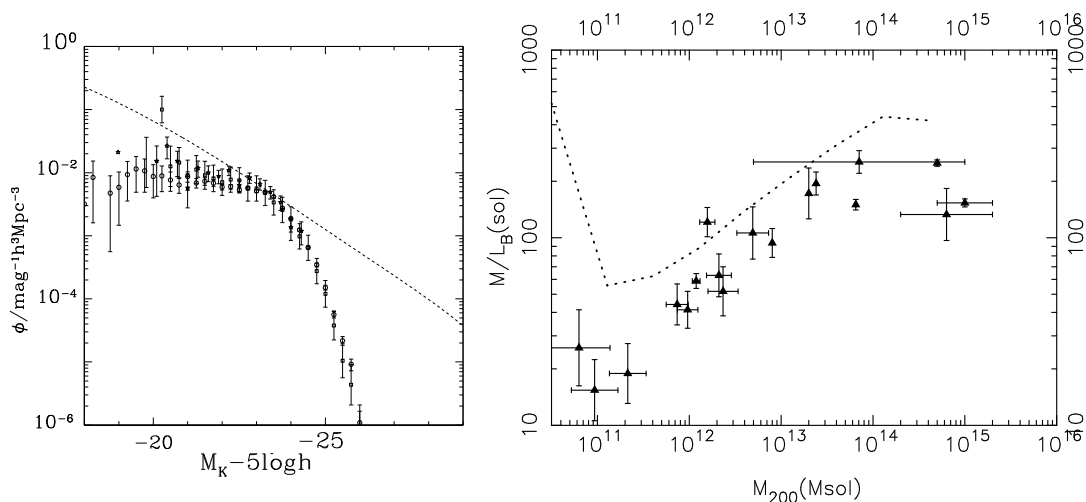
### 3.2. Amount of dark matter in groups and clusters of galaxies

Larger structures have grown through the gradual merger of small structures – which deepened the gravitational potential well, and accelerated the accretion of more mass into runaway collapse. According to the Sheth-Tormen/elliptical collapse model of structure formation [91], 10% of the total mass at the present day is contained within galaxy clusters over  $10^{14} M_{\odot}$  and another 15% within galaxy groups down to  $10^{12} M_{\odot}^{\ddagger}$ . This non-linear density enhancement exaggerated the dynamic range of mass fluctuations from the early universe, which began with a Gaussian distribution to a high level of accuracy. The most massive clusters today are very rare and, since only slightly less dense initial fluctuations grew more slowly, the present number of haloes of a given mass forms a steep “mass function”  $N(M)$ , shown in figure 4. This steepness means that the growth of clusters over time,  $N(M, z)$ , is very sensitive to the collapse process, including the nature of gravity [93, 94] as well as the amount and physics of dark matter [103]. Conveniently, the dense concentrations of mass also create the strongest gravitational lensing signal.

Galaxy groups and clusters can be found directly via gravitational lensing surveys [104, 105]. Clusters sufficiently massive to produce strong lensing are generally already known because of the corresponding overdensity of galaxies, although the detection criteria for lensing is a cleaner function of mass. Weak lensing cluster surveys are advancing even more rapidly. Several hundred cluster candidates have now been found in weak lensing mass maps from the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope [106] and the Subaru telescope [107]. Follow-up spectroscopy [108] has identified the baryonic component of around 60% of these, yielding the redshifts required to place the clusters in  $N(M, z)$  plane shown in figure 5, calibrate their mass through the geometrical distance to the background galaxies, and also to rule out false detections due to the chance alignment of multiple small structures along one line of sight [109]. The remaining  $\sim 40\%$  of candidates are possibly chance alignments of unrelated small structures, or the random orientation of aspherical haloes along the line of sight. Such effects must be carefully considered in lensing surveys, which are sensitive to the total integrated mass along a line of sight [110, 111]. Multicolour imaging is also needed to properly identify a clean sample of source galaxies *behind* the cluster. Galaxies inside or in front of the cluster are not lensed by it, and a study of the nearby Coma cluster [112] also shows that member galaxies may even be radially aligned within it, so they will dilute the signal if they are misidentified and accidentally included [113].

Gravitational lensing cluster surveys are clean but costly, since it is necessary to find and resolve galaxies more distant than the structures of interest. The baryonic components of clusters can be quickly identified from infra-red emission, which traces old stellar populations and is unobscured by dust [115], the X-ray luminosity and

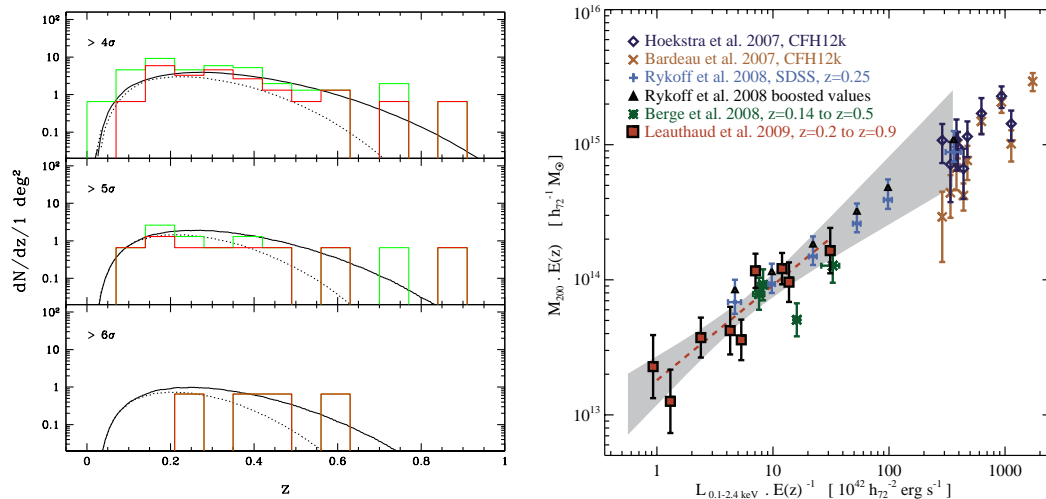
$\ddagger$  To include half of the mass, it is necessary to consider haloes of  $10^{10} M_{\odot}$ , and 20% of mass has yet to find its way into a bound halo at all. This is much less than in the older Press-Schechter/spherical collapse model [92], in which 50% of mass was thought to be in groups and clusters.



**Figure 4.** The amount of total mass in astrophysical bodies. *Left:* The number of galaxies with a given infra-red  $K$ -band luminosity in the 2dF [80, circles], SDSS [89, squares] and local  $z < 0.1$  surveys [90, stars]. In contrast to this, the dashed line shows a theoretical model of the number of dark matter haloes as a function of mass, assuming only cold dark matter physics in the growth of structure [82] (see also [81]). This has been converted into luminosity assuming a fixed mass-to-light ratio. Its normalisation is arbitrarily chosen to match at the knee of the luminosity function, but can be adjusted by changing the model mass-to-light ratio. Importantly, the disparity indicates that baryonic physics act to suppress star formation in low-mass or high-mass haloes, and that these contain a very large proportion of mass that does not shine. *Right:* Mass-to-light ratio as a function of the mass (all measured within the radius at which the total density is 200 times higher than the mean density in the Universe), from [72, 74, 76, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102]. The majority of the luminosity measurements are made in the B band, at redshift  $z \sim 0.3$ . The dotted line shows the prediction of semi-analytic models of galaxy formation [75].

temperature of intra-cluster gas [116], the Sunayev-Zeldovich (SZ) effect in which the CMB is scattered to higher energy off warm electrons [117, 118], and Doppler-shifted light that reveals the clusters' internal kinematics [119]. In particular, since X-ray emission is proportional to the square of the electron density in intra-cluster gas, X-ray surveys are less sensitive than lensing to the chance alignment of many small haloes along a line of sight. However, the fundamental quantity most easily predicted by theories is mass, and a scaling relation must be constructed from all of these luminous observables to mass. The scaling relations often rely on poorly justified assumptions about the dynamical equilibrium or physical state of the baryonic component [120, 121]. Inherent systematic errors can be investigated by an inter-comparison of the various observables, but the ultimate comparison is now generally obtained versus gravitational lensing [95, 122, 123, 124, 125]. Strong lensing arcs directly measure the enclosed mass within the Einstein radius, providing a robust normalisation of the mass distribution, and weak lensing traces the outer profile of the halo, where most of the mass is found.

The comparison with X-ray cluster surveys has been most astrophysically



**Figure 5.** Counting the number of clusters in the universe  $N(M, z)$ , as a function of their redshift  $z$  and mass  $M$ . *Left:* Directly detecting clusters via their weak gravitational lensing signal, which probably provides the cleanest selection criteria, using the Subaru telescope [114]. The three panels show different cuts in detection S/N, which is a proxy for mass  $M$ . The red histogram shows clusters with spectroscopically confirmed redshifts, the green histogram shows less secure clusters detected in weak lensing but not yet confirmed, and the solid line shows the expected distribution. The matching of weak lensing peaks with a baryonic counterpart requires a large investment of follow-up telescope time, and is the current limitation to the method. There are currently fewer confirmed clusters than expected, and there is considerable shot noise. However, this technique shows great promise for the future, with dedicated wide-field surveys. *Right:* Using weak lensing measurements of a subset of galaxies, groups and clusters to calibrate other observables – in this case the X-ray luminosity – which can then be used to estimate  $N(M, z)$  more cheaply.

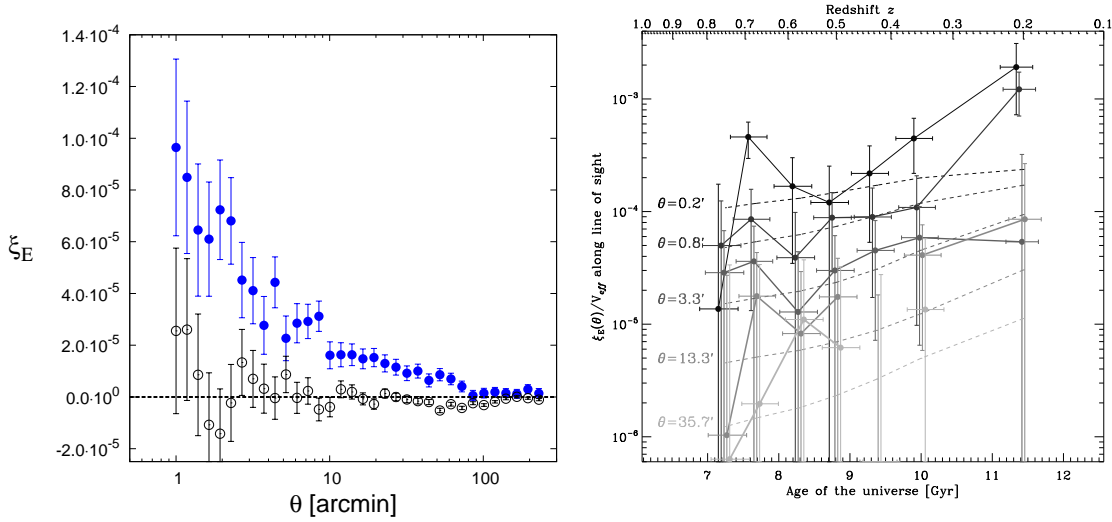
interesting. The combination of strong lensing and X-ray measurements of galaxy clusters was first advocated as a way to probe the dynamics of the intra-cluster gas [126]. Initial disagreements in the overall normalisation [127, 128] have indeed been much addressed by accounting for the effects of cool cluster cores on emission from the intra-cluster medium. Finally, a comparison was completed of strong lensing, X-ray and infra-red emission from 10 X-ray luminous ( $L_X > 8 \times 10^{44}$  ergs/s at 0.2-2.4 keV inside  $R < 350$  kpc) clusters at redshift  $z \sim 0.2$  [129]. As shown in figure 5, mass measurements now generally agree for dynamically mature clusters with a circular X-ray morphology and high central concentration of the infra-red light. However, at a certain level, there is no such thing as a relaxed cluster. Major mergers leave more than half of systems dynamically immature, and estimates of their mass from the complex X-ray morphologies are particularly problematic [130]. In these cases, only lensing mass estimates appear viable.

### 3.3. Amount of dark matter in large-scale structure

Large weak lensing surveys of “cosmic shear” along random lines of sight can be used to study the distribution of mass on the largest scales, and the mean density of the Universe ( $\Omega_m$ , which is usually expressed in units of the fraction of the density required to *just* close the Universe and prevent perpetual expansion). The amount of mass clumped on different scales is usually parameterised in terms of the (two-point) correlation  $\xi_E$  between the cumulative shear distortion along lines of sight to pairs of galaxies separated by an angle  $\theta$  on the sky, as illustrated in figure 6. In isolation, current cosmic shear constraints on  $\Omega_m$  are degenerate with  $\sigma_8$  (see figure 7), another parameter in cosmological models that normalises the amount of clumping of matter on a fixed scale of  $8h^{-1}$  Mpc – in this sense, it describes the physical size of the clumps. At a redshift  $z = 0.3$ , where many recent cosmic shear surveys are most sensitive,  $8h^{-1}$  Mpc corresponds to an angular size of  $\sim 43$  arcminutes on the sky (about one and a half times the diameter of the full moon). The degeneracy between  $\Omega_m$  and  $\sigma_8$  is gradually being removed, as larger cosmic shear surveys measure probe the distribution of dark matter with statistical significance on both larger and smaller scales. Extensions towards large scales are particularly welcomed, because very large-scale structure is still collapsing linearly, so theoretical predictions are calculable from first-order perturbation theory. The degeneracy is also being broken by the first measurements of the three-point correlation function of galaxy triplets [95, 131, 132], which is sensitive to the skewness of the mass distribution, and depends in an orthogonal way upon  $\Omega_m$ .

The “clumpiness” of matter naturally increases as the Universe transitions from an almost uniform state at high redshift to the structures we see around us today. The rate of growth of this structure also depends upon  $\Omega_m$ , since additional mass speeds up gravitational collapse. The degeneracy between  $\Omega_m$  and  $\sigma_8$  present in a static, 2D analysis can this be broken by comparing the density fluctuations at different epochs. Figure 6 shows constraints of  $\Omega_m = 0.248 \pm 0.019$  from a comparison of the primordial matter fluctuations captured in the Cosmic Microwave Background radiation [133] with current structure seen in weak lensing measurements from the 50 square degree patch Canada-France-Hawaii telescope Legacy Survey [134].

Even tighter constraints on  $\Omega_m$ , and unique insight into the nature of gravity as it shapes dark matter, can be obtained by tracing the continual growth of structure [135]. This can be obtained from gravitational lensing because, while nearby galaxies are lensed by local structure between them and us, more distant galaxies are also lensed by the additional mass in front of them, and the most distant galaxies are lensed by mass throughout the Universe. The finite speed of light makes distance equivalent to lookback time, so we can reconstruct the distribution of mass in distant structures as it was when the light passed near and was lensed by them many billions of years ago. Redshifts can be used as a proxy for the distance to each lensed galaxy, and are measured from the spectrum of their emitted light or estimated from multicolour images. The 2 square degree Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey is the largest optical

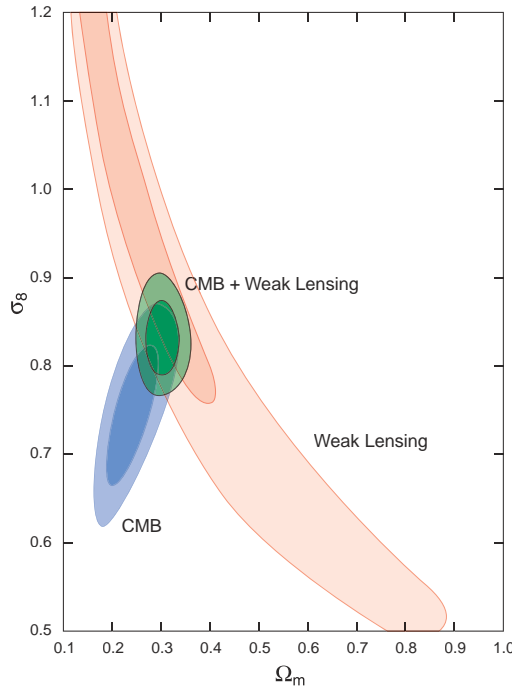


**Figure 6.** The large-scale weak lensing “cosmic shear” signal. *Left:* Measurement of the 2D signal from the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope Legacy Survey [134]. This traces the overall amount of mass in the Universe, projected along the line of sight, and shows how it is more clumped on small scales than on large scales. Solid points show the cosmological  $E$ -mode lensing signal, and open points show the  $B$ -mode, a tracer of uncorrected systematic effects that should be consistent with zero. *Right:* The growth of this signal over cosmic time, measured from the Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey [136]. This uses the 3D locations of source galaxies to trace the distribution of mass at different distance from the Earth. Dashed lines show the prediction of the standard  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmological model. Error bars account for only statistical error within the field and do not include the effect of using only a small field.

survey ever obtained from space, with extremely high quality imaging that resolves the shapes of even small and faint galaxies at lookback times of more than 10 billion years. Multiwavelength follow up of the field in about forty other wavelengths, from radio, through IR, optical, UV and X-ray, provides the most accurate photometric redshift estimates, for about 2 million galaxies [145]. The right hand panel of figure 6 shows the essentially independent measurements of  $\xi_E(\theta)$  as a function of time, witnessing the growth of structure. Compared to a 2D analysis, this tightens statistical errors on  $\Omega_m$  by a factor of 3 [136], yielding  $\Omega_m = 0.247 \pm 0.016$  from only a 2 square degree patch of sky [17]. A continuous 3D cosmic shear analysis can potentially provide five-fold improvements over a 2D survey [137, 138], making the investment of follow-up telescope time very effective.

Galaxies can only be resolved to finite distances, and they did not even exist in the very early Universe. As well as providing a snapshot of primordial density fluctuations, the CMB may also provide the ultimate high redshift source that has been gravitationally lensed by even more foreground matter [139, 140, 141]. Patterns in the temperature of the CMB form shapes that become distorted by lensing in exactly the same way as galaxies. More interestingly, lensing moves CMB photons without





**Figure 7.** Constraints on cosmological parameters from the distribution of mass in the early universe, traced by the WMAP satellite in the Cosmic Microwave Background radiation, compared to the distribution of mass in the local universe from weak gravitational lensing [133]. The parameter  $\Omega_m$  is the density of all mass in the Universe, and  $\sigma_8$  is the normalisation of the power spectrum, describing its clumpiness on  $8h^{-1}$  Mpc scales. In each case, the two contours depict 68% and 95% confidence limits, and assume a flat universe. The orthogonality of the two constraints, originating from the evolution of the mass distribution between very different epochs, is key to their combined power.

rotating their polarisation. Primordial density fluctuations from a scalar inflationary field produce a curl-free ( $E$ -mode) polarisation signal, but this is mixed by lensing into a non-zero  $B$ -mode signal [142]. This requires high angular resolution measurements of the CMB and only upper limits have yet been measured [143]. To complicate matters further, non-zero curl modes in the polarisation can also be created by foreground effects such as dust emission, and tensor (gravity-wave) perturbations in the early Universe.

Most ambitiously, independent measurements of  $\Omega_m$  at vastly different cosmic epochs could also constrain the conservation of mass in the Universe, although the statistical error on this are likely to remain large for the foreseeable future.

## 4. Organisation of dark matter

### 4.1. Distribution on large scales

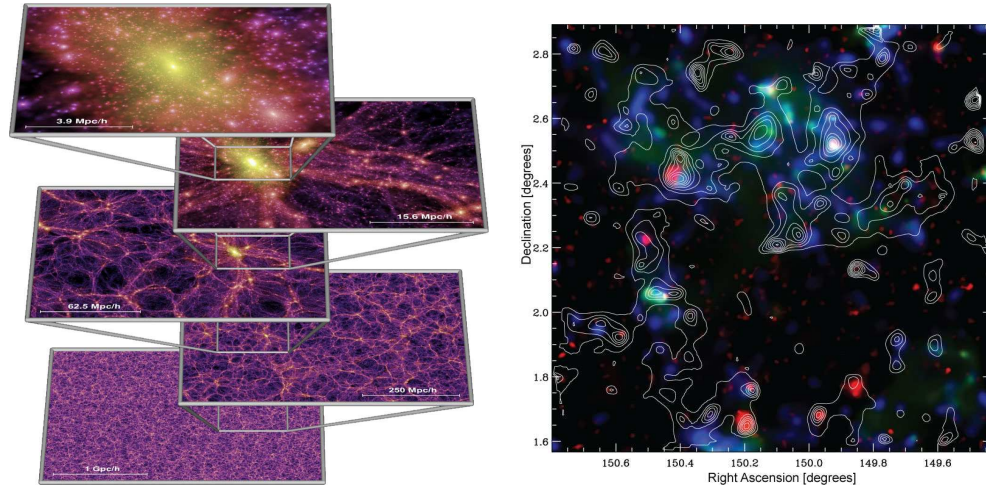
On the largest scales, dark matter forms a crisscrossing network of filaments, spanning vast, empty voids, and with the largest concentrations of mass at their intersections.

Figure 8 compares the expected and observed distribution of mass. The 2 square degree Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey was specifically designed to enclose a contiguous volume of the universe at redshift  $z = 1$  containing at least one example of even the largest expected structures [144]. The filamentary network of mass revealed by weak lensing measurements is apparent, and the multiwavelength imaging also provides several tracers of baryons [145]. Optical and infra-red emission, when interpreted via theoretical models of stellar evolution, can be used to infer the mass, age and other properties of the star populations. X-ray imaging is sensitive to the gas in dense clusters of galaxies that is heated sufficiently for it to glow at these shorter wavelengths.

The multicolour data also provide redshift estimates for each source galaxy that can be used to extrude the observed map in 3D along the line of sight [147, 148]. This technique has also been applied to the distribution of dark matter near the Abell 901/902 galaxy supercluster [149], resulting in the discovery of a previously unknown cluster CB1 that lay behind the foreground [150].

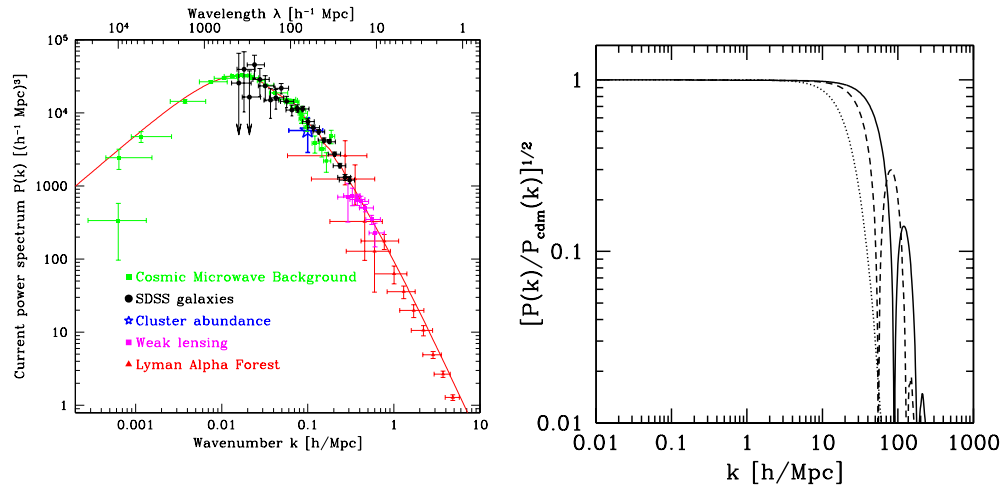
The large-scale distribution of mass can be described statistically in terms of its power spectrum  $P(k)$ , which is shown in the left hand panel of figure 9. This is the Fourier transform of the correlation functions shown in figure 6, and measures the amount of clumping on different physical scales. If the density field is Gaussian, the same information can also be expressed as the mass function  $N(M, z)$ , i.e. the density of haloes of a given mass as a function of that mass and cosmological redshift. There has been a substantial amount of work on analysing the properties of the dark matter power spectrum, including its growth over time from a power spectrum of primordial density fluctuations. In order to compare theoretical models to data, the semi-analytic approach of [151] is used, predominantly for its simple fitting functions to the linear power spectrum, which can be extended (at 5-10% accuracy) into the mildly nonlinear high- $k$  regime [152, 153].

In the early universe, photons were subject to density waves in which regions could gravitationally collapse then, with the increased density providing pressure support, rebound and oscillate. Large regions oscillated slowly, but smaller regions could complete multiple cycles. The oscillations were frozen when the temperature of the Universe dropped sufficiently for protons to capture electrons, and fluctuations that happened to be particularly overdense or underdense are now seen as anisotropies in the Cosmic Microwave Background. Since standard model particles were coupled to photons at high energies, they were subject to the same density fluctuations, and also froze out at decoupling. To this day, baryonic structures like galaxies exist preferentially at certain fixed physical separations, known in the power spectrum as Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAOs). Dark matter was initially not subject to these fluctuations, having a featureless power spectrum. Indeed, it decoupled from the primeval soup (of photons and particles) at very early times, and formed the first network of structures that acted as scaffolding into which baryonic material could be drawn and assembled, then only later picking up the preferred scales through gravitational interaction with the baryons. However, in several candidate particle models, including supersymmetric particles, dark matter



**Figure 8.** The large-scale distribution of dark matter. *(Left):* The expected distribution of dark matter at the present day, from the “Millennium simulation” (of a Universe containing only cold dark matter) [146]. Each layer is zoomed from the last by a factor of four, and shows the projected distribution of dark matter in slices of  $\sim 20$  Mpc thickness, colour-coded by density and local dark matter velocity dispersion (Image credit: Volker Springel/Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics). *(Right):* The observed large-scale structure in the Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey [148]. Contours show the reconstructed mass from weak gravitational lensing, obtained by running the filters in the left hand panel of figure 2 across the observed distribution of background galaxies shown the right hand panel of figure 2 (to improve resolution, the conversion process actually used smaller, noisier bins each containing  $\sim 80$  galaxies). Like an ordinary optical lens, a gravitational lens is most effective half-way between the source and the observer. At redshift  $z \sim 0.7$ , where the lensing measurements are most sensitive, the field of view is about the same as the second layer from the top in the left panel. However, the observations also include overlaid contributions (at a lower weight) from all mass between redshifts 0.3–1.0 along our line of sight, projected onto the plane of the sky. The various background colours depict different tracers of baryonic mass. Green shows the density of optically-selected galaxies and blue shows those galaxies, weighted by their stellar mass from fits to their spectral energy distributions. These have both been weighted by the same sensitivity function in redshift as that inherent in the lensing analysis. Red shows X-ray emission from hot gas in extended sources, with most point sources removed. This has not been reweighted, so is stronger from nearby sources, and weaker from the more distant ones.

couples to photons at energies even higher than the standard model particles. The smallest density fluctuations would have had chance to oscillate once or twice, and imprint their scales on even the primordial distribution of dark matter, as shown in the right hand panel of figure 9 [88]. In addition, a warm or hot component dark matter, such as low-mass neutrinos, could continuously free-stream away from any mass concentrations that build up (refusing to be captured in dense regions of the Universe) and erase structure on small scales (see Section 5.5 for more details).

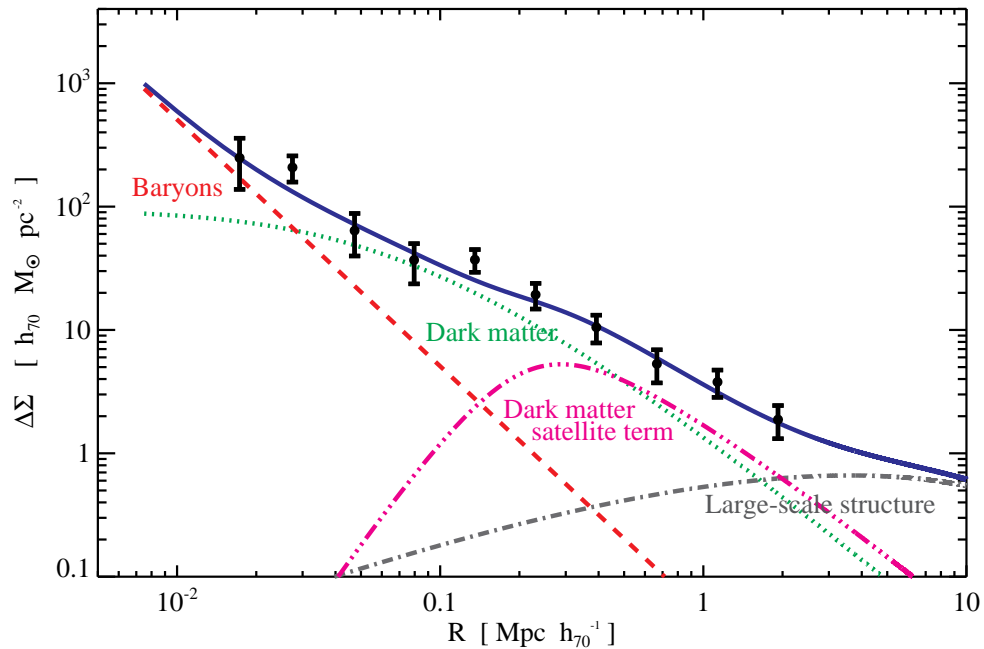


**Figure 9.** The statistical distribution of dark matter in Fourier space. *Left:* The mass power spectrum, showing the clumping of dark matter as a function of large scales (low  $k$ ) to small scales (high  $k$ ) [87], including some very early weak lensing constraints [154]. Current constraints are tighter and extend over a wider range of scales in both directions. *Right:* The effect on the power spectrum of 1 MeV mass WIMP dark matter that remains coupled to other particles in the early universe [88]. The solid (dashed) line assumes a 10 keV (1 keV) kinetic decoupling temperature. The dotted line illustrates the similar small-scale damping effect of a component of warm dark matter.

#### 4.2. Sizes of individual haloes

In numerical simulations, collisionless dark matter particles form structures with a remarkable, “universal” density profile across a wide range of mass scales from dwarf galaxies to clusters. There may be some cluster-to-cluster scatter [155, 156, 157], but the mean density profile  $\rho(r)$  is expected to rise as  $\rho \propto r^{-3}$  in the outskirts, transitioning to  $\rho \propto r^{-\beta}$  inside a scale radius  $r_s$  that is a function of halo mass and formation redshift. Early simulations found a central cusp with  $\beta$  between 1 and 1.5 [158, 159], but this appears to have been an effect of their limited resolution, with more recent simulations predicting a smooth decrease in slope towards a flat core [160]. This appears to be converging, but thorough testing of the numerical simulations is continuing. Finalising and comparing these predictions to the observed distribution of dark matter in real clusters is a strong test of the whole collisionless CDM paradigm – as well as the nature of gravity.

Individual galaxies of  $10^{12}M_{\odot}$  at  $z \sim 0.22$  have weak lensing signals that show extended dark matter haloes, with large scale radii in agreement with simulations [70]. Note that the astrophysics literature normally parameterises this in terms of the ‘concentration’ or ratio of the radius containing most of the mass to the scale radius (individual galaxies are expected to have concentrations of around 7–13, and massive clusters of 5–6). A sample of 98 galaxies acting as strong lenses was ingeniously found



**Figure 10.** The observed radial distribution of mass around elliptical galaxies in the Hubble Space Telescope COSMOS survey, decomposed into its various components [177]. The solid blue curve shows the total “galaxy-galaxy” weak gravitational lensing signal. On small scales around  $\sim 10$  kpc, this is dominated by the baryonic content of galaxies represented by the red dashed curve. This particular data set is for a set of elliptical galaxies whose spectral energy distributions indicate a similar amount of mass in stars, and the central lensing signal increases as expected for galaxies with larger predicted stellar masses. At intermediate scales around  $\sim 200$  kpc, dark matter haloes become dominant: the main NFW halo term (dotted green), plus an additional contribution (triple-dot-dash magenta) from occasions when the analysis focuses on satellite galaxies in the halo of a larger host, rather than main galaxies. On large scales above 3 Mpc, the galaxy-galaxy lensing signal reverts to the cosmic shear signal from large-scale structure in which the galaxy is located (dot-dash grey).

by looking for multiple sets of spectral lines at different redshifts within sources that need not even be resolved in low resolution imaging [171, 172]. A successful observing campaign with the Hubble Space Telescope has now followed up  $\sim 150$  such targets, with a 2 in 3 success rate of resolving strong lens systems [74]. Interestingly, the stacked gravitational lensing signal behind them, in agreement with dynamical analysis, shows an apparent conspiracy between the dark matter and baryonic components to produce an overall “isothermal”  $\rho \propto r^{-2}$  density profile out to very large ( $\sim 140$  kpc) radii [173, 174] (or even further [175]). Figure 10 demonstrates the conspiracy of central baryons, the galaxy’s own dark matter halo, and the haloes of neighbouring galaxies; none of them is individually isothermal [161, 74, 176, 177]. In addition, the location of the transition from the host halo to large-scale structure marks the typical size of dark matter structures and its occurrence at the scale expected from simulations itself provides strong support for the CDM paradigm [72].

Galaxy clusters of  $10^{14} - 10^{15} M_{\odot}$  in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey also exhibit dark matter haloes with scale radii  $r_s$  in line with expectations [161]. Other surveys find particularly massive clusters to have smaller scale radii (but the expected outer slope), as would have happened if they had collapsed earlier, when the Universe was more dense [294, 162, 163, 164, 165]. The baryons that accumulate in the cluster cores (not least in the typically massive central galaxy) add a complication that is not included in the simulations and difficult to disentangle in observations. Baryons form stars and radiate away energy, falling further into a deepening gravitational potential well that also drags in and increases the central concentration of dark matter [166, 167]. However, additional baryonic effects would act in the opposite way, and the discrepancy may simply arise from selection biases that favour the observation of haloes that are centrally concentrated or triaxially elongated in 3D and oriented along our line of sight [168, 169]. Nonetheless, these observations suggest the intriguing possibility of non-Gaussian density fluctuations in the early Universe (potentially cosmic strings) that would have seeded accelerated structure formation [170].

#### 4.3. Shapes of haloes

In the standard cosmological model, dark matter haloes are expected to be significantly non-spherical [178, 179]. Measurements of weak gravitational lensing in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey confirm that the axis ratio of haloes around isolated galaxy clusters (projected onto the 2D plane of the sky) is  $0.48^{+0.14}_{-0.19}$  [180]. This rules out sphericity at 99.6% confidence and is consistent with the ellipticity of the cluster galaxy distribution. Albeit with large statistical errors, the dark matter haloes around individual galaxies appear slightly rounder than the light emission. In the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope's (CFHT) Red Cluster Sequence (RCS) survey, the mean ellipticity of dark matter haloes around all galaxies is  $77^{+18}_{-21}\%$  that of the host galaxy ellipticity [102]. This has been subdivided in SDSS to haloes around red (elliptical) galaxies with  $60 \pm 38\%$  of the ellipticity of their host galaxies, versus haloes around blue (spiral) galaxies being *anti*-aligned with their host galaxies and *more* oblate by  $40^{+70}_{-100}\%$  [181]. This dichotomy is also seen in the CFHTLS [101]. Such results confirm that the dark matter haloes guided the formation of the cores of massive galaxies [182]. Constraints on the ellipticity of dark matter haloes may be two orders of magnitude tighter from gravitational flexion than those from shear [183]. As survey get larger and observations improve, the next step will be to test whether the haloes align with the large-scale structure in which they formed. For example, tidal gravitational forces along filaments may preferentially align haloes, elliptical galaxies, and the angular momenta of spiral galaxies [184]. It has also been suggested [185, 186] that the average ellipticity of dark matter haloes can be used to probe cosmological parameter  $\sigma_8$  (and to a lesser extent  $\Omega_m$ ), and the nature of gravity.

Very oblate mass distributions can produce three images of a strongly-lensed source, as opposed to the usual double or quadruple images. The paucity of observed triple

image systems therefore suggests that most are quite spherical [169] – although the expected abundance also depends upon the inner profile of the mass distribution. For strong lenses with a small separation ( $\lesssim 5''$ ), the radial profile and hence the image multiplicities depend sensitively on the alignment of the dark matter and central baryonic components [187]. Conveniently however, although the orientation of an individual galaxy (particularly spiral galaxies) with respect to the line of sight affects its strong lensing cross-section, when averaged over all possible orientations or relative orientations of dark matter and luminous components, the shape of a spiral or elliptical galaxy does not bias the strong lensing signal by more than  $\sim 10\%$  [187, 188, 169].

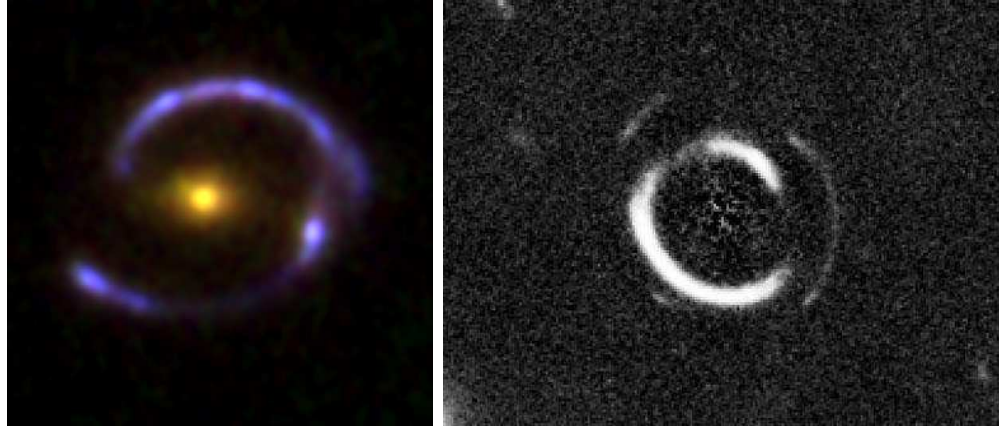
Numerical simulations suggest that the dark matter haloes around spiral disc galaxies have an additional interesting feature. Merging subhaloes approaching from within or near the plane of the disc are gravitationally dragged into a “dark disc” [189], which maintains a similar velocity dispersion to the stars that form the thick disc. A dark disc would have important implications for dark matter direct detection experiments, because of the low velocity of those dark matter particles with respect to the Earth. However, the stellar disc is a small fraction of stellar mass, and it will be challenging to detect an equivalent dark component via lensing (or dynamical) measurements.

#### 4.4. Cusp versus core central profiles

Debate has been raging for several years about the inner profile of dark matter haloes within the scale radius. Examples of elliptical galaxies shown in figure 11 have been found with a cuspy  $\beta \approx 1$  inner dark matter component, as expected from the original NFW simulations. These include the “jackpot” double Einstein ring, which provides the best lensing-only galaxy mass profile, and also shows that a dark halo is required. However, most observations tend to prefer a flatter profile, with a low  $\beta \lesssim 0.5$  on all mass scales. For example, the kinematics of dwarf and low surface brightness galaxies, which are expected to be dark matter dominated throughout, suggest a dark matter distribution closer to a “core” ( $\beta = 0$ ) and incompatible with NFW haloes [190, 191]. Rotation curves of spiral galaxies also indicate lower central densities than expected in NFW haloes [192, 193, 194, 195]. The discrepancy is fundamentally interesting because it could be due to the properties of dark matter: either the free-streaming of a partial ‘warm’ component away from the gravitational potential well, or a low level of (self-)interaction via the weak force to provide pressure support and thus prevent collapse [196, 197]. However, neither provides a complete explanation. For example, it has been pointed out that the self-annihilation of dark matter particles would only provide significant heating in dense cores with cuspy slopes  $\beta \gtrsim 1.5$ , even assuming a generous interaction cross-section and efficient transfer of released energy into the baryons [83]. Slopes with  $\beta = 1$  provide a factor of 1000 less heating.

Galaxies that can be further studied because they act as strong gravitational lenses appear to be a representative sample of all galaxies – chosen solely by the chance of another source lying directly behind them. Two independent studies confirm that





**Figure 11.** *Left:* The “cosmic eye” elliptical galaxy lens [225]. If it is assumed that the baryonic component of mass in the yellow lens galaxy traces the distribution of light, the distribution of dark matter must be cuspy, in line with predictions from simulations [226, 227]. *Right:* a rare alignment of two sources behind one elliptical galaxy SDSSJ0946+1006 (after subtracting the foreground galaxy) [174]. This produced concentric, near-perfect Einstein rings, and allows particularly precise measurement of the radial slope of the mass distribution, since both rings constrain the total interior mass. Both of these high resolution images were obtained with the Hubble Space Telescope, but the second system was initially found in unresolved ground-based data, from the spectroscopic signature of two sources at different redshifts [171].

the fraction of elliptical galaxies acting as a lens is independent of local environment and stellar properties [209, 210]. More elliptical galaxies overall are found in clusters, and simulations predicted that these would have a lower stellar to total mass ratio, and more lensed images with larger arc radii [211]. However, the encouraging observational result confirms that, at least within current statistical limits, the lens galaxy selection have the same gross characteristics (e.g. inner profile slope, which increases the strong lensing cross section) as those in the field, and there is negligible boost from additional mass in large-scale structure.

The main challenge in extending the interpretation of the total mass near the centres of haloes will be that most of that mass is baryonic, and therefore influenced by additional astrophysical processes that require more work to be understood and subtracted [198]. Observationally, galaxies appear sharply divided into (mainly faint, discy and rapidly rotating) morphologies with a central cusp, and (mainly brighter, boxy and slowly rotating) morphologies with a central core [212]. Cored galaxies also tend to exhibit radio-loud active nuclei [213] and X-ray emission [214], confirming that major merger events, especially the merging of binary black holes, profoundly impact the central distribution of baryons. Simulations demonstrate that baryonic cusps can be gradually softened by stellar winds or supernovae. Dynamical friction can build up a central baryonic cusp, but preserve the overall mass distribution by softening the dark matter core even if 0.01% the total mass exists in subclumps [199, 200]. The dark matter profile can also be softened by scattering from or accretion onto central black



holes, especially when tidally stirred by infalling satellites [201, 202]. Any remaining mass is rearranged into flat ( $\beta \approx 0$ ) cores particularly efficiently in low-mass dwarf galaxies or if the mass loss events are intermittent [203].

Massive clusters of galaxies provide more multiple strong lensing systems, including radial arcs, and are marginally better understood. Since cuspy cores act as more efficient gravitational lenses, the inner slopes of haloes can also be statistically constrained by the abundance on the sky of any strongly lensed arcs [204, 205], the relative abundance of radial to tangential arcs [206], and the relative abundance of double- to quad-imaged systems [207, 169]. The high resolution of space-based imaging is particularly needed to identify radial arcs, which are typically embedded within the light from a bright central galaxy. A systematic search of 128 clusters in the Hubble Space Telescope archive [208] found a uniform ratio of 12:104 radial to tangential arcs with large radii behind clusters of a wide range of mass. This ratio is consistent with  $\beta < 1.6$ , although the interpretation again depends upon the assumed mass of the central galaxies.

Studies of individual galaxy clusters have been particularly effective when combining strong lensing measurements with optical tracers of the velocities of stars within the central galaxy. Analysis of the cores of nearly round, apparently “relaxed” clusters initially found  $\beta = 0.52 \pm 0.05$  [215, 216]. At the time, this was thought to be low, and concerns were raised about various simplifying assumptions [217, 218, 219]. A more sophisticated analysis [220] of two clusters has since reached similar conclusions. However, degeneracies were noticed that could only be broken by mass tracers at larger radii, and weak lensing observations are currently being used [221] to extend the range of measurement.

Another interesting observable is the light travel time to multiple images of a strongly-lensed source, which may differ by months or years (in a cluster, or weeks or months in an individual galaxy) because of variations in both the geometric distance and the accumulated amount of gravitational time dilation. If the source is itself variable (e.g. a quasar with varying output), the relative travel time can be measured between the images. This is usually used to determine the value of Hubble’s constant, by assuming a mass distribution for the lens, often through the shape of strong lensing arcs, which then specifies the relative distance and time dilation along the two paths [44, 222, 223]. However, if cosmological parameters are externally known, the same technique can be used to improve constraints on the inner profile [224].

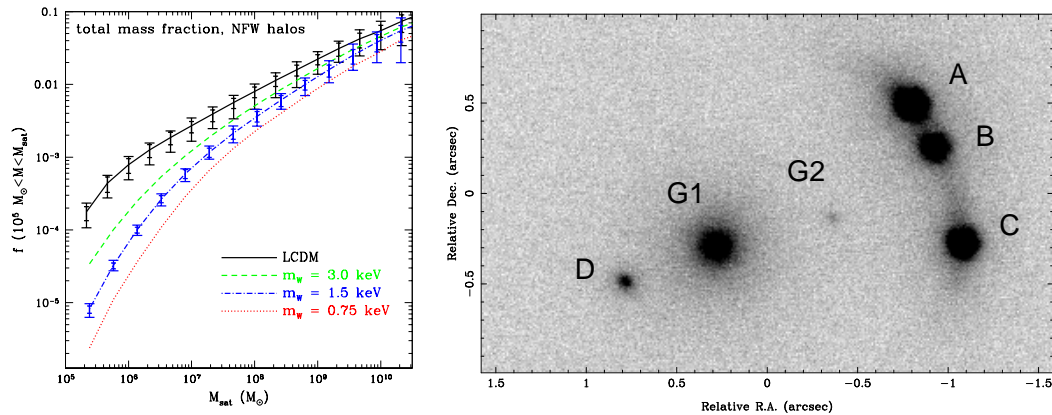
#### 4.5. Substructure

Structures in the Universe grow hierarchically via the ingestion of progressively larger objects, each of which themselves grew from the merging of smaller units. Not all of the material in subhaloes is stripped from merging subhaloes and smoothly redistributed amongst the cluster. Speculation still continues [228, 229, 156, 157] on the expected fraction of mass in substructure, with estimates typically ranging from  $\sim 5$ –65% and options for the relative sizes of the substructure shown in the left panel of figure 12.

According to semi-analytic models, the substructure mass fraction varies with cluster age and assembly history, so “archaeological” investigation can probe dark matter physics during mergers, and also “age-date” smooth haloes that formed early and grew little, versus clumpy haloes that formed in a recent flurry of activity [129, 230, 231, 232].

The largest dark matter simulations currently resolve up to four generations of vestigial haloes within haloes [233]. A robust prediction of several hundred first generation subhaloes around galaxies like the Milky Way led to the well-known “missing satellites problem”, because too few were observed. This issue is beginning to be resolved, as larger and deeper surveys have finally unearthed a wealth of faint dwarf satellite galaxies [234], each of which contains very few stars (see §3.1) but a lot of dark matter [235]. To fine-tune the number of these “dark haloes”, the focus of the debate has now switched from the nature of dark matter to astrophysical issues such as the efficiency of star formation and reionisation. Beneath the four hierarchical generations of substructure, simulations also contain an additional smooth component of dark matter. This may imply that the fourth level is the end of the self-similarity, or may just be a limitation of the simulation resolution. Endless, fractal self-similarity in the substructure mass function is appealing because it implies a patchy distribution of dark matter within the Milky Way [236]. If the Earth is currently within a void, this could explain the lack of robust evidence for local dark matter from subterranean direct detection experiments. However, testing this theory is difficult because star formation is so strongly damped in small dark matter haloes that they can only be indirectly observed. Once again, gravitational lensing provides the only tool to do this in structures outside the Local Group, studies of which will soon become statistically limited by the small sample size available.

Strong gravitational lensing is most sensitive to small mass variations close to a line of sight, and multiple images in which light followed paths through the lens separated by more than the scale of substructure provide a unique opportunity to observe a source both with and without its effect. The smooth potential of a galaxy lens affects all the multiple images in a coherent way, but substructure affects each image individually. Thus the amount and mass function of substructure can be probed in the relative positions, fluxes and time delay of multiple images of (point-like) quasar sources [237, 238, 239], and also “fine structure” variations in (extended) galaxy sources [240]. Caution must be taken to rule out discrepancies caused by differential light propagation effects along alternative paths through the lens, and (for optical imaging of quasar sources) potential confusion from month–year long microlensing events by stars in the lens galaxy [241]. In both cases, multiwavelength imaging provides the quickest solution. Firstly, infra-red light is much less absorbed or scattered. Multiwavelength imaging of lensed quasars is especially useful because the intrinsic source image changes size at different wavelengths. A coarse model of the mass distribution in the lens can be determined from multiple imaging of the large ( $\sim 1$  kiloparsec), low energy narrow line emission region. Smaller substructure in the lens introduces millilensing (small Einstein radius lensing) that perturbs the relative intensity or “flux ratios” of the same



**Figure 12.** Substructure in galaxies’ dark matter haloes. *Left:* Expected fraction of mass in subhaloes more massive than  $10^5 M_\odot$  from a semi-analytic model incorporating merger histories, survival probabilities and destruction rates of infalling substructure [264]. Lines show models of standard cold dark matter (black) and warm dark matter with various particle masses (colours). Error bars reflect statistical scatter between realisations of the model calculations. *Right:* Adaptive optics  $2.2 \mu\text{m}$  imaging of lensed quasar B2045+265 [265]. The lensed images (A, B, C, D) have one of the most extreme anomalous flux ratios known: models of lens galaxy G1 require that B should be the brightest image, but instead it is the faintest, suggesting the presence of an additional perturbing mass. Indeed, this high resolution imaging revealed a small satellite galaxy (G2) that explains the anomalous flux ratio.

multiple images, as seen in higher energy radiation originating from the  $\sim 1$  parsec broad line region [242]. The fraction of mass in stars within the lens can be found from “microlensing densitometry” variations of the continuum emission from the  $\sim 10^{-3}$  pc central accretion disc [243, 244, 245].

Substructure of  $10^4 - 10^7 M_\odot$  in elliptical galaxies provides the only explanation for observations of anomalous flux ratios in multiply imaged quasars [241, 245, 246]. Indeed, very deep near-infrared imaging in one of these cases, shown in the right panel of figure 12, did eventually find emission from one of the large pieces of substructure. Curiously, the amount of substructure implied by millilensing seems to be greater than that predicted by simulations, turning the missing satellites problem on its head [247, 248]. Time delays from substructure lensing have also been tentatively detected as changes in the order of arrival time of multiple images [249].

Within galaxy clusters, group-scale substructure was revealed from early ground-based studies of strong lensing arcs [250, 251, 252], and subsequent Hubble Space Telescope imaging refined the precision [34]. An sample of 10 clusters observed with Hubble (5 of them including strong-lenses) demonstrated that  $(70 \pm 20)\%$  of clusters contain major substructure, including multiple main density peaks [129]. In a further sample of 20 strong lensing clusters it has recently been confirmed that the amount of substructure required in parametric mass reconstructions is indeed anticorrelated with the dynamical age of the cluster, as measured by the contribution of the brightest cluster

galaxy and the magnitude difference between the two brightest central galaxies, as seen in near-infrared light [253].

The fundamental limitation with strong lensing techniques is the finite number of sight lines through the Universe that end in a strong lens. Weak gravitational lensing analyses can overcome this in the most massive clusters. The weak lensing signal is sensitive to all mass within an extended radius of the line of sight, so the reconstruction of the mass distribution is inevitably non-local, but individual  $10^{11} - 10^{12.5} M_{\odot}$  subhaloes can be found amongst the larger net signal from the host halo with HST imaging [254]. A weak lensing analysis of five massive clusters [255] shows a significant signal of substructure, excluding the possibility of an entirely smooth mass distribution, and with a mass function  $N(M)$  of substructure that is noisy but consistent with simulations. The substructure contributes 10–20% of the clusters' total mass. On even larger (and entirely statistical) scales, the accumulated presence of small-scale substructure can move power to small scales  $k \gtrsim 100h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  in the matter power spectrum, from large scales  $1 \lesssim k \lesssim 100h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  that should be accessible with the next generation of dedicated cosmic shear surveys [256].

Flexion mapping is the most exciting compromise between these two regimes. The flexion signal is more local than weak lensing and sensitive to the gradient of the mass distribution, which can be large near substructure even when the total amount of mass is not [257, 258, 259]. A direct reconstruction of the mass distribution from flexion has been achieved in cluster Abell 1689 [260, 261], and revealed a new subclump not resolved by weak lensing. The amount of substructure in dark matter haloes down to masses of  $\sim 10^9 M_{\odot}$  should also be statistically detectable as an excess variance in the flexion signal [262]. The flexion signal has a (small and spatially uniform) component of variance due to the intrinsic shapes of distant galaxies. This is unaffected by a cluster with a smooth distribution of mass [263, 183], but any substructure will increase this variance, which can be measured in radial apertures about a cluster centre, and averaged over many clusters to overcome noise.

## 5. Properties of dark matter

### 5.1. Gravitational interaction

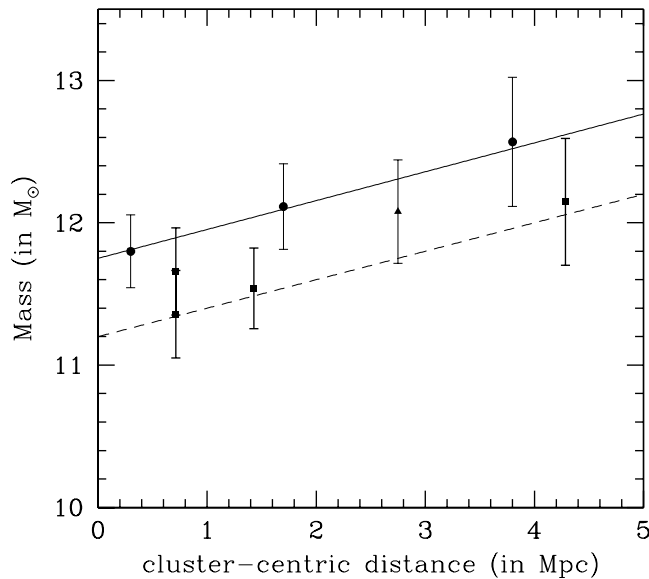
It is assumed in the default cosmological scenario that dark matter interacts via normal Einstein gravity. The ubiquitous coincidence of mass and light on all scales [294, 266, 148, 97] certainly demonstrates that dark matter and baryons are mutually attracted. But the best probe of dark matter's precise interaction lies in the tidal gravitational stripping of dark matter subhaloes as they are accreted on to a larger structure. High resolution simulations of galaxy clusters [267, 268] show that tidal stripping should rapidly reduce the mass of dark matter subhaloes as they are accreted on to a larger structure, compared to both isolated haloes and also those already at the centre, which are only weakly affected by tidal forces. The stripped dark matter is

dispersed into the smooth underlying distribution.

Observational evidence confirms this scenario, although current statistical uncertainties are large, since only the most massive clusters have substructure that can be studied in detail, and homogeneous samples have only been gathered for a few of these. Nevertheless, weak lensing measurements from CFHT show that typical elliptical galaxies of a given brightness live inside haloes that extend to  $377 \pm 60$  kpc [102]. Independent measurements of galaxies with a different camera on CFHT yield a size of  $\sim 430$  kpc in the outskirts of supercluster MS 0302+17, but galaxies near the cluster core are truncated at a radius  $\lesssim 290$  kpc [266]. Higher resolution weak lensing measurements are not possible from the ground because of the smoothing required to achieve statistical precision, but an even more thorough treatment has been made of galaxy cluster Cl 0024+1654, which has been observed extensively from HST. The morphologies of the infalling galaxies appear to change dramatically only once they fall within  $\sim 1$  Mpc of the cluster core [269]. However, as shown in figure 13, the weak lensing signal around elliptical galaxies within 3 Mpc indicates truncated haloes with a mean total mass of  $1.3 \pm 0.8 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ , compared to  $3.7 \pm 1.4 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$  for similarly bright galaxies in the outskirts [270]. Indeed, different physical effects seem to dominate in three distinct zones around a cluster [269, 270]. Outside the cluster virial radius, galaxies are entering the cluster for the first time, and evolution is driven by the rare interactions and mergers of individual objects [271]. Inside a transition region of a few megaparsecs, tidal stripping of dark matter haloes begins to decrease the mass-to-light ratio of galaxies that may make several passes through the cluster core. Within the central megaparsec, tidal stripping is strongest, but baryonic effects including ram-pressure stripping also affect the observed morphology of galaxies' baryonic component. There is slight evidence that tidal stripping in Cl 0024+1654 is less efficient than in dark-matter only simulations [270], but this is probably due to additional baryonic effects.

Measurements of strong lensing can push the analysis down to even smaller (kiloparsec) scales. Parametric reconstructions of the haloes of elliptical galaxies [272, 273, 36, 274, 210] confirm that cluster members have less massive dark matter haloes than galaxies in the field, and are truncated at radii around 17-66 kpc, depending on the cluster. There is also preliminary evidence that the inner profiles of galaxy dark matter haloes are steepened by gravitational tidal effects during infall [210]. This is expected from simulations [275], and also needed to resolve discrepancies between measurements of Hubble's constant from time delays in strongly lensed multiple images behind a foreground cluster, and those derived from independent techniques. With larger surveys planned in the future, this technique promises to be very fruitful in constraining the properties of dark matter.

It is particularly important to pin down the interaction of dark matter with gravity because all the current evidence for dark matter is gravitational. Indeed, many attempts have been made to circumvent the need for dark matter by modifying general relativity. Some of these theories of gravity can also predict the accelerating expansion of the



**Figure 13.** The removal of mass from the dark matter haloes around elliptical galaxies of a fixed luminosity by tidal gravitational forces, as they fall into a large cluster [270]. Circles and triangles mark observations from gravitational lensing data, and squares show predictions from the Millenium  $n$ -body simulation. The radial trend is consistent with dark matter being stripped as expected by a full gravitational force; the different normalisations reflect uncertainty in the overall mass to light ratio.

Universe, otherwise attributed to dark energy [276, 277, 278, 279]. Modifications of general relativity generally involve additional source terms (e.g. a scalar field) to explain individual phenomena, such as the fast rotation of galaxies or the separation between X-ray and lensing signals in the bullet cluster [280, 281]. However, none of these alternative theories has yet been able to consistently explain the whole range of dark matter observations that are successfully verified within the standard cosmological model, without requiring at least a small additional component of weakly interacting mass [102, 282, 283, 284].

### 5.2. Electroweak interaction

The complex physical processes during the assembly of clusters from subhaloes stir up the distribution of baryonic mass and obscure much of the behaviour of dark matter. However, the differences between baryons and dark matter are also highlighted by their different reactions to these processes. The most striking example of this, and the cluster that has provided the most direct empirical evidence for dark matter, is undoubtedly the “bullet cluster” 1E 0657-56 [285, 286, 287], shown in figure 14.

Galaxy clusters contain three basic ingredients: galaxies, intra-cluster gas, and dark matter. Inconveniently for those trying to interpret the total mass distribution, these ordinarily come to rest in approximately the same place. However, this is not always the case. The bullet cluster is strictly two clusters that collided about 150 million years



**Figure 14.** The “bullet cluster” 1E0657-56 and “baby bullet” MACSJ0025.4-1222. The background images show the location of galaxies, with most of the larger yellow galaxies associated with one of the clusters. The overlaid pink features show X-ray emission from hot, intra-cluster gas. Galaxies and gas are baryonic material. The overlaid blue features show a reconstruction of the total mass from measurements of gravitational lensing. This appears coincident with the locations of the galaxies, implying it has a similarly small interaction cross-section. However, there is far more mass than that present in the stars within those galaxies, providing strong evidence for the existence of an additional reserve of dark matter. (Figure credit: Left: X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/ M.Markevitch et al.; Lensing Map: NASA/STScI; ESO WFI; Magellan/U.Arizona/ D.Clowe et al. Optical image: NASA/STScI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.; Right: NASA/ESA/M.Bradac et al.).

ago, within or close to the plane of the sky, and the ingredients have become separated. Rather like the scattered ejections from a particle collider, the trajectories of the cluster detritus are governed by the properties of its components. Since individual galaxies within the clusters (and stars within those galaxies) are well-spaced, they have a very low collisional cross-section: most continued moving during the collision, and today lie far from the point of impact. On the other hand, intra-cluster gas was uniformly spread throughout the incident clusters. This had a large interaction cross-section and was slowed dramatically during the collision. The two concentrations of hot gas, seen in X-ray emission, have now passed through each other, but have not travelled far from the point of impact. The collision speed and gas density were sufficient for a shock front to be observed in the gas from the smaller of the two clusters, allowing the determination of the collision speed. Initial concern that the shock velocity of 4700 km/s is higher than that expected for any merging haloes [288] has now been resolved by properly taking into account the relative motion of the gas clouds in the rest frame of the smaller cluster.

Crucially, gravitational lensing observations require the third ingredient of the bullet cluster. A great deal of extra mass ( $\sim 30 - 40\times$  than that seen in the galaxies’ stars) is located near the galaxies, and  $8\sigma$  away from the gas peaks. To have travelled so far, this mass must have a self-interaction collisional cross section  $\sigma/m < 1.25 \text{ cm}^2\text{g}^{-1}$  at 68% confidence (or  $\sigma/m < 0.7 \text{ cm}^2\text{g}^{-1}$  under the assumption that the mass to light ratio of the initial clusters was the same) [289]. Note that this does not include a constraint on the dark matter-baryon interaction cross section.

The visible separation between the three ingredients of each cluster is temporary. Within another billion years, the mutual gravitational attraction of the galaxies, gas and dark matter will have pulled them back together, spiralling back into the usual configuration of baryonic material within a dark matter cocoon. Consequently, such objects are rare. One very similar “baby bullet” object has been detected [290] (see right panel of figure 14), as well as a “cosmic train wreck” counter-example [291], which shows separated dark matter and gas components, but in a complex distribution that probably implies a collision between three clusters. Collisions along the line of sight would provide complementary information, but the one possible example [292] is probably an artefact of spurious instrumental effects [293] and substructure within the cluster [294]. However, the race is now on to find more bullet clusters, at a range of collision speeds, masses, impact parameters and angles to the line of sight [295]. A statistical analysis of many bullet clusters would overcome uncertainties in any individual system, and help dispel any lingering doubts that a set of chance effects (or features of the nature of gravity) conspire to produce the observed appearance.

### 5.3. Self-annihilation/decay

As discussed in §4.4, gravitational lensing observations of flat cores in the centres of dark matter haloes could be explained by a finite self-interaction dark matter cross section. Relying on this effect to produce cores in galaxy haloes requires a cross section  $\sigma \sim 0.56\text{--}5.6 \text{ cm}^2\text{g}^{-1}$  [296, 297]. However, smoothing the mass profile of clusters requires a much larger  $\sigma \sim 200 \text{ cm}^2\text{g}^{-1}$  [298]. If both are to be explained by self-interaction, either the cross-section is velocity dependent and/or other astrophysical effects are dominant. Self-interacting dark matter also generally produces haloes that are more spherical than standard CDM, especially in the core [296], although current measurement uncertainty is too large to discriminate. Measurements from the PAMELA satellite [299], ATIC balloon [300] and of the WMAP haze [301, 302] tentatively suggest a high value of the related dark matter-dark matter annihilation rate. These results are being greeted with cautious skepticism, as similar effects have not been reproduced in other detectors that ought to see decay products.

If axions exist as a component of dark matter, they would couple to standard-model particles [303, 304] and should be detectable via photon-photon decay into a single optical emission line with a flux proportional to the dark matter density. Integral field spectroscopic searches for this signature emission from the dark matter haloes of two galaxy clusters have benefitted from strong gravitational lensing [305]. The search efficiency was improved by a factor of 3 over previous analyses by correlating the search with strong lensing mass maps of the densest regions, where the emission from such decays is expected to be strongest. The sensitivity for emission line detection in the optical wavelength range allowed them to derive interesting upper limits on the two-photon coupling in the mass range  $4.5 \text{ eV} < m < 7.7 \text{ eV}$ . This work highlights the potential of spectroscopy coupled with accurate maps of the dark matter distribution



to explore a larger axion mass window at higher sensitivity, and the same data can also be used to constrain the decay rate of other  $\sim 5$  eV relics, such as sterile neutrinos.

#### 5.4. *Particles or planets?*

In the broadest sense, “dark matter” refers to any matter that is undetectable through either emission or absorption in the electromagnetic spectrum. Some astrophysical objects are naturally dark, such as black holes — and we face technological limitations in the detection of any faint sources. It is a particularly attractive proposition that a large population of “dark”,  $\sim$ planet-sized Massive Compact Halo Objects (MACHOs) contribute a major component of the missing mass but have so far evaded detection. Such objects could be baryonic in nature and could even fit within our standard understanding of stellar evolution, thus removing the need for any new particles.

There have been extensive and sustained efforts to characterise the number of MACHOs in the halo of the Milky Way, its satellites the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, and our neighbouring galaxy Andromeda (M31). Even though MACHOs are not visible themselves, whenever one passes in front of a star its gravitational microlensing briefly brightens the star. Since the volume of space along lines of sight that would cause microlensing is tiny, many millions of stars need to be continually monitored.

Looking towards 12 million stars in the Magellanic Clouds for 5.7 years, the MACHO survey [306] found only 13–17 microlensing events (and some of these have been challenged as supernovae or variable stars). At 95% confidence, this rules out a model in which all of the Milky Way’s dark matter halo is (uniformly distributed) MACHOs. However, if all events are real, the rate is still  $\sim 3$  times larger than that expected from a purely stellar population, indicating either that they contribute up to 20% of the Milky Way halo’s mass [307], or a larger fraction of the Magellanic Cloud halo, in less massive bodies [308]. Also looking towards the Magellanic Clouds, the Expérience pour la Recherche d’Objets Sombres (EROS) project [309] found only 1 event in 6.7 years of monitoring 7 million stars, compared to the 39 expected were local dark matter composed entirely of  $0.6 \times 10^{-7}$ – $15 M_{\odot}$  MACHOs. Looking towards the Magellanic Clouds and the densely populated central bulge of the Milky Way, the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment (OGLE) [310, 311, 312] detected only 2 microlensing events in 16 years, and even these events are consistent with self-lensing by stars, rather than MACHOs [313, 310]. The OGLE results conclude that at most 19% of the mass of the Milky Way halo is in objects of more than  $0.4 M_{\odot}$ , and that at most 10% is in objects of  $0.01$ – $0.2 M_{\odot}$ . The POINT-AGAPE experiment [314, 47] observed unresolved (pixel) microlensing in the more distant Andromeda galaxy, and found that at most 20% of its dark matter halo is in  $0.5$ – $1.0 M_{\odot}$  mass objects (at 95% confidence).

The gravitational microlensing results provide convincing evidence that less than 20% of the mass of the Galactic halo is in the form of MACHOs. Coupled with cosmological measurements of the baryonic and total mass density, this is strong evidence that remaining dark matter must be non-baryonic. Weakly interacting massive

particles have become well-established as the favourite candidate. However we note that while MACHOs down to planet mass scales have been convincingly ruled out, the jump in scale from this to a sub-atomic description is not one that should necessarily be taken for granted.

The rarity of MACHOs has meant that every individual event has become a great source of information. An industry of follow up observations has developed to help try to determine the nature of massive compact objects as either neutron stars, black holes/dwarfs or something more exotic.

### 5.5. Warm and Hot Dark Matter

If dark matter is in thermal equilibrium, the mean velocity of the particles can be characterised by a dark matter temperature. If the dark matter particles were produced in the early Universe by standard “freeze-out” from a primordial soup, this temperature is also related to the mass of the particles. Relativistic free-streaming of dark matter particles lighter than  $\sim 1$  MeV would have suppressed subsequent gravitational collapse. The large-scale structure visible today, and that in the Cosmic Microwave Background [315], require the dominant component of dark matter to have been dynamically cold and therefore massive. However, it seems most likely that dark matter consists of several components, potentially including a small contribution of dynamically warm or hot particle species such as gravitinos or massive neutrinos. Massive Majorana ( $\nu_\alpha = \bar{\nu}_\alpha$ )§ neutrinos also provide an attractive theoretical explanation for the baryon asymmetry [316]. Note that, although very light, sterile neutrinos (which do not couple with any standard electroweak interaction) or axions would be dynamically cold, since they were produced due to symmetry breaking and have never picked up large kinetic energy by being in thermal equilibrium with the Universe.

Neutrino particle physics and astronomy first joined forces to explain the “solar neutrino problem”, that fewer electron neutrinos than expected are detected from the Sun. The Solar Neutrino Observatory (SNO) [317] explained this deficit as the oscillation of electron neutrinos to other ( $\mu$  or  $\tau$ ) flavours en route to Earth. SuperKamiokande [318] studied cosmic ray collisions and found a similar result that only  $\sim 1/3$  the flux of muon neutrinos  $\nu_\mu$  from cosmic ray collisions in the atmosphere were observed along the line-of-sight through the Earth. This implies an oscillation of  $\nu_\mu$  to some other flavour with a scale length comparable to the radius of the Earth. Further evidence for neutrino oscillations comes from nuclear reactors (KamLAND, [319]) and neutrino beam experiments (K2K, [320]). The LSND [321] results suggest the existence of sterile neutrinos, and the MiniBOONE experiment [322] should confirm or refute this result. There have also been cosmological constraints on the abundance of sterile neutrinos [323].

§ For cosmological purposes the distinction between Majorana and Dirac neutrinos is not important. However, astrophysics could feasibly detect the neutrinoless double beta decay possible with Majorana neutrinos, thus constraining neutrino mass (and distinguishing between normal or inverted hierarchies).

The rate of neutrino oscillations depends upon the (square of) the mass differences between neutrino flavours. Current constraints on the mass differences from large particle physics experiments are  $|\delta m_{23}| \sim 0.05$  eV and  $|\delta m_{12}| \sim 0.007$  eV. There are currently no strong constraints on  $|\delta m_{13}|$ , though upcoming experiments like T2K [324] should measure this with an accuracy of  $\sim 0.05$  eV. Thus current constraints allow for two possible orders of the massive neutrino hierarchy:  $m_1 < m_2 < m_3$  or the inverted hierarchy  $m_3 < m_1 < m_2$ . Particle physics experiments are planned that will measure the absolute mass scale via the beta decay of Tritium [325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330]. For example, KATRIN [331] is expected to reach an accuracy of  $\Delta m_{\nu_e} \sim 0.35$  eV. However, providing useful information on the hierarchy configuration will require an accuracy of  $\Delta m_\nu < 0.1$  eV [332].

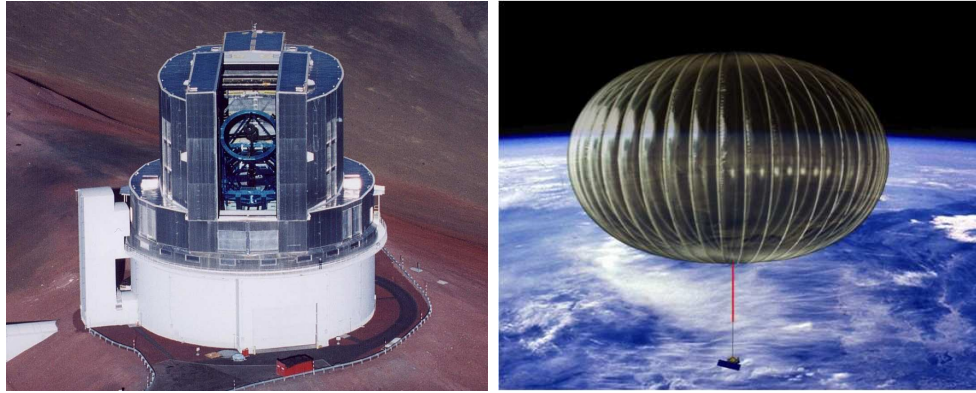
If dark matter does include a component of massive neutrinos, they will have left a key signature in the Cosmic Microwave Background [333] and in large-scale structure [151, 334]. Neutrinos free-stream out of gravitational potentials, reducing the amount of matter that can accumulate on small scales. This erases substructure in dark matter haloes and softens their central cusps. This is observable via strong lensing of galaxies [196, 197] and quasars [335, 336]. The altered flexion variance signal on due to substructure could detect 2 keV neutrinos [262].

The suppression of small scale structure also shifts (free-streams) power onto the larger scales accessible by weak lensing [337, 338, 339]. Current weak lensing observations of the cluster mass function, in conjunction with the SDSS and 2dF galaxy redshift surveys, constrain the total neutrino mass  $m_\nu < 1.43$  eV (at 95% confidence) [340]. Two independent analyses of cosmic shear in the CFHTLS Wide survey [341, 342] both tentatively find an upper limit of  $m_\nu < 0.54$  eV (at 95% confidence) when combined with data from the CMB (WMAP 3 year), supernovae and baryon acoustic oscillations. Whilst these constraints are heavily dependent on priors, the statistical accuracy is well matched to that expected from the size of the survey. The next generation of large, three dimensional cosmic shear surveys expect to detect warm dark matter particles with a mass of  $\sim 5$  keV [343] and constrain the effective number of neutrino species  $N_\nu$  to  $\sim 0.1$  and  $\Delta m_\nu$  to within a few times  $10^{-2}$  eV [344]. Weak lensing should even be able to distinguish between inverted and normal neutrino hierarchies, because the lighter species become relativistic at a higher redshift than more massive particles and consequently have a different impact on the dark matter power spectrum  $P(k)$  [345] and the weak lensing of the CMB [346].

## 6. Future directions

### 6.1. Hardware

Several facilities are being designed or converted for dedicated measurements of gravitational lensing. The Japanese 8m Subaru telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, shown in the left panel of figure 15, was built with weak gravitational lensing measurements



**Figure 15.** The investigation of dark matter via gravitational lensing has a bright near-term future. *Left:* The 8m Subaru telescope atop the 4200m inactive volcano Mauna Kea, Hawaii. Subaru will soon receive an upgraded imaging camera, mounted at prime focus – the top of the telescope and visible in the photo. Prime focus allows a wide field of view, but requires sturdy support to avoid flexure of the optical path as the telescope is pointed in different directions around the sky (credit: National Astronomical Observatory of Japan). *Right:* Artist’s impression of the planned HALO telescope, observing gravitational lensing from a long-duration balloon at an altitude of 35km, above 99% of the Earth’s atmosphere (credit: NASA Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility).

explicitly in mind. Its robust construction stabilizes the optical path and has produced the highest quality imaging of all ground-based telescopes. A replacement is currently being built for its 0.25 square degree field of view SuPrime-Cam imager. The next generation, 1.5 gigapixel HyperSuPrime camera will have a 2.5 square degree field of view [347], and will carry out a multiwavelength gravitational lensing survey covering 2000 square degrees. The Kiilo Degree Survey (KIDS) should cover 1400 square degrees, exploiting a new, 0.3 gigapixel, 1 square degree OmegaCAM optical imager on the European 2.4m VST telescope at Paranal, Chile [348]. The Dark Energy Survey (DES) will cover 5000 square degrees, using a 0.5 gigapixel, 2.2 square degree DECam imager being designed for the 4m Blanco telescope at Cerro Tololo, Chile [350]. Most of this survey will also be covered by the South Pole Telescope’s CMB survey to find galaxy clusters via the Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect, allowing an important cross-correlation. Looking further ahead the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) is being planned, with a 6m effective primary mirror and a 3.2 gigapixel optical camera [349]. All of these surveys will include imaging at multiple optical and near-infrared bands in order to obtain photometric estimates of galaxy redshifts and thus perform 3D lensing analyses.

Circumventing the drive toward ever-larger single-dish telescopes is the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) on Haleakala, Hawaii [351]. Survey imaging has just begun using a single 1.8m telescope (PS1) with a 1 gigapixel optical camera to cover a shallow but full-hemisphere Wide Survey plus a 70 square degree Medium Deep Survey (to the same depth as the Canada-France-Hawaii telescope’s deep legacy survey, which covers only 1 square degree). The detectors include

the unique ability to transfer accumulated charge between pixels during an exposure, following short-term variations in the atmosphere to improve image quality. Most importantly, PS1 is a prototype for a much larger sequence of facilities. Construction of PS2 has already begun: a duplicate unit that will be situated alongside and may be used in conjunction with the original. Its goal will be to demonstrate that repeat production of relatively small telescopes can be cost-efficient. If this is successful, two more identical telescopes will be built to create PS4, all potentially housed in the same dome but moved to a higher altitude site on Mauna Kea, and more still for PS16 situated at various locations around the world, allowing 24 hour-a-day continual observation of the sky [352].

There have been some attempts to use radio data to measure the weak lensing effect [353, 354]. Such exploratory investigations suggest that surveys such as LOFAR and the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) could use long baseline interferometry (approximately 300 to 500 km for the SKA frequencies) to image radio sources at a sufficient resolution to measure weak lensing distortion [355, 356]. The expected sources are star-forming galaxies, whose spatial density is uncertain, but whose intrinsic shapes are probably more regular than usual radio sources. If possible, such radio observations would also open up a whole new lensing regime: the large scale structure at very high redshift could be inferred from lensing of the pre-galactic Hydrogen 21cm emission [357].

The most exquisite weak lensing measurements require telescopes above the Earth's atmosphere. The Hubble Space Telescope already offers imaging with more than ten times higher resolution — and crucially stability — than even the Subaru telescope, although over a narrow field of view [358]. The proposed High Altitude Lensing Observatory (HALO), illustrated in the right panel of figure 15, will fly on a long-duration balloon above 99% of the atmosphere. If its pointing accuracy can be successfully stabilized, it will offer wide-field imaging of almost space-based resolution for about the same cost as most cameras currently under construction for ground-based telescopes. However, achieving the ultimate precision in lensing observations of dark matter will eventually require deep imaging from a dedicated space-borne telescope in a dynamically and thermally stable environment at the Earth-Moon Lagrange point L2. The SuperNova/Acceleration Probe (SNAP) and Dark Energy Space Telescope (DESTINY) mission concepts proposed for the NASA/DoE Joint Dark Energy Mission (JDEM) include major components of gravitational lensing surveys [360, 361]. At the time of writing, the JDEM selection procedure is on hold, pending the outcome of the US decadal review. The European Space Agency's Euclid mission concept has been designed explicitly with gravitational lensing as a primary science and instrumentation driver. Euclid will image the entire extra-galactic sky (20,000 square degrees) in optical and infra-red with an image resolution and depth similar to the HST Deep Field, and obtain spectra for a quarter of the lensed galaxies [362]. The Euclid dark matter science objectives include providing a dark matter map of the Universe to a redshift of 2, detecting hundreds of thousands of dark matter clusters and haloes from  $10^8 M_\odot$  to  $10^{15} M_\odot$  and constraining the neutrino mass, number and hierarchy to percent accuracy.

High resolution space-based imaging has also proven essential for measurements of strong gravitational lensing, in which the most important factor is generally the number of lensed sources resolved around each foreground mass (which can then be cross-compared to remove degeneracies), rather than the total number of lenses on the sky. About 1 in 200 elliptical galaxies are strong lenses, and about 1 in 90 strong lenses provide something close to a double Einstein ring. An all-sky survey with Euclid should therefore find several tens of thousands of strong lenses, several hundred double Einstein rings, and maybe a “golden lens” with more. Following up all these detections with spectroscopic observations to obtain their redshifts will require a significant investment of time on ground-based telescopes such as some proposed 30m-class telescopes. The proposed Observatory for Multi-Epoch Gravitational lens Astrophysics (OMEGA) space telescope will continually monitor  $\sim 100$  strongly lensed Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) using near-UV to near-IR imaging and spectroscopy with a cadence of hours to days [363]. AGN take on different physical sizes when observed at different wavelengths, so each imaging band will be sensitive to millilensing by different masses of substructure in the lens. The regular imaging will calibrate the physical size of the sources as a function of wavelength, via the “reverberation mapping” technique, and also measure the time delays between multiple images in order to better understand the lens geometry.

## 6.2. Software

Fully exploiting the wealth of new survey data will require simultaneous advances in analysis techniques, computer hardware to implement those techniques on huge data sets, and theoretical calculations against which the observations can be compared. As appropriate for a mature scientific field, statistical weak lensing experiments will need to simulate the entire experiment, from the growth of structure through observation and data processing, in order to avoid systematics and correctly interpret the results. This begins with computer simulations of structure formation – and while there is a substantial existing industry of dark matter simulations, these tend to include neither the complicating baryonic processes, nor the specific visualisation of dark matter as seen by a lensing survey. For example,  $\sim 10\%$  biases can be introduced by simulations too small to include even the largest coherent structures at any redshift [364], or by simply integrating the mass distribution along radial lines away from the Earth [365]. Instead, it is necessary to raytrace backwards along the paths followed by light and follow multiple deflections [366, 367]. Implementing this in petabyte-scale simulations requires preplanned organisation of the output during runtime.

Simulations will then be required to realise images of the Universe through the Earth’s atmosphere, the telescope’s point spread function (PSF) and distortions in the optical path, and pixellisation and other effects at the detector. All of these change the shape of a galaxy. But, while this forward process is easily mimicked, it is a challenging inverse problem to start from the observed data and extract the underlying weak lensing signal. Many image analysis techniques have been developed to measure galaxy shapes

and correct them for these effects. To make the challenge more difficult still, the most distant galaxies, which contain the largest integrated lensing signal, are very faint and noisy.

The archetypal weak lensing measurement method KSB measures galaxies' quadrupole shape moments to infer the shear [55]. However, the physical simplicity of KSB is known to be biased in some observational regimes and at low signal to noise. A host of new methods have been developed and are now being used for the most recent analyses. Two notable methods, *lensfit* [368, 369] and *shapelets* [370, 371, 372] both work by forward-fitting a model galaxy shape that has been pre-convolved with the PSF, in order to obtain a deconvolved image. *Shapelets* uses a model that generalises KSB's quadrupole moments to higher order. *Lensfit* uses a parametric model based on the typical shapes of galaxies and in particular deals with the noisy regime via a fully Bayesian framework. The Shear TEsting Programme (STEP) [373, 374], an international collaboration of lensing groups, then the GRavitationaL lEnsing Accuracy Testing (GREAT) [375, 376] scheme, which also included input from computer scientists and experts in machine learning, have provided lensing simulations upon which methods can be tested. Both schemes took the format of a blind competition, in which simulated astronomical images containing a known weak lensing signal were distributed to entrants (who were not told the input signal) for independent analysis. Flexion measurement methods are still in relative infancy, but shapelets contain all the higher order shape information necessary to construct flexion estimators [66, 377, 378]. The similar *HOLICS* estimator [379] is identical to shapelets (and KSB) at low order, but uses non-orthogonal moments at higher order. This improves the signal to noise, but at the expense of correlated errors. All these flexion methods have been implemented on small amounts of real data, and the FLexion Improvement Programme (FLIP) is underway to calibrate them via simulated images.

The final step of a data analysis pipeline is to reconstruct the distribution of mass from a gravitational lensing observable. Weak lensing shear and flexion are both related simply to the projected mass in Fourier space [54, 68], but the conversion is non-local and also noisy. Several methods have been developed to optimally filter the reconstruction, the most successful being maximum entropy wavelet-based techniques [380, 381]. Incorporating additional constraints from strong gravitational lensing is not so simple, and usually requires iteration of a model until it matches the observed positions, fluxes, redshifts and complex shapes of observed sources [382, 383]. Strong lensing observations yield very high information density along lines of sight that lead to an image, but zero elsewhere, and two styles have been developed to realise a continuous mass model from this. Parametric models assume the mass distribution to have some symmetry or to follow the distribution of light within a lens but, by construction, the parameters are physical quantities of direct interest [34, 36]. Non-parametric models avoid such assumptions, but require a large number of multiple images to provide accurate mass reconstructions on different scales [35, 384]. One new method uses a multi-scale adaptive grid to combine advantages of both styles [385]. This technique

should be able to simultaneously reconstruct the mass distribution on cluster, group and galaxy scales, and therefore provides more accurate measurements of substructure.

## 7. Conclusions

During the past decade, there has been tremendous progress in the measurement of gravitational lensing, and this has contributed to key observations of dark matter. We now know that there is a lot of dark matter, and its distribution has been mapped on a wide range of physical scales. Dark matter is certainly not baryonic, and measurements are beginning to ascertain properties including its dynamical temperature and interaction cross-section through fundamental forces with both itself and baryonic matter.

In this revolution, the techniques of gravitational lensing have moved rapidly into mainstream astronomy. Progress is most apparent in the field of weak gravitational lensing, which is now a standard tool for many astrophysicists. The excited anticipation of a 1997 review [48] was quickly realised in the almost immediate detection of cosmic shear, and has been brought by continual observational and technical advances into a mature scientific field.

The future prospects are bright. The first telescopes purpose-built for gravitational lensing measurements have just begun dedicated surveys. More facilities are being planned and built – including pioneering space-based telescopes that will provide the most discriminating data to investigate the dark sector. To keep pace with these surveys and interpret the observations, image analysis techniques and theoretical calculations are entering a new regime in precision. Over the next decade, particle physics may find particles that are a candidate for dark matter; astrophysics will study the missing matter directly. Together, we tiny specs of baryonic matter may be able to join up the two sides of the dark Universe.

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